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POWER MAN AND IRON FIST



WALKER
GREENE
LOUGHRIDGE

STREET MAGIC MARVEL

POWER MAN STREET MAGIC



IRON FIST



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POWER MAN

ORPHAN DANIEL RAND EARNED THE POWER OF THE IRON FIST IN THE MYSTICAL CITY OF K'UN-LUN. AS AN ADULT, DANNY OVERSEES THE RAND CORPORATION AND MOONLIGHTS AS IRON FIST: KUNG FU DEFENDER OF THE INNOCENT.

PRISONER LUKE CAGE WAS SUBJECTED TO EXPERIMENTS THAT GAVE HIM SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH AND DURABILITY. AS POWER MAN, HE'S BEEN A HERO AND AN AVENGER, AND NOW A HUSBAND AND FATHER.

ONCE UPON A TIME, THEY WERE THE HEROES FOR HIRE.

STREET MAGIC

LUKE AND DANNY WERE HIRED TO PROTECT VICTIMS OF PREEMPTIVE STRIKE—VIGILANTES USING THE SUPERNATURAL SOFTWARE AGNITUS TO IMPRISON PEOPLE FOR CRIMES THEY DIDN'T COMMIT. WHEN PREEMPTIVE STRIKE ASSAULTED THEIR TARGETS AT HEROES FOR HIRE HQ, THE POLICE COULDN'T SORT THE GUILTY FROM THE INNOCENT. HQ GOT WRECKED, AND DANNY GOT SENT TO JAIL. OUTSIDE RYKER'S PRISON, CAPTAIN MARVEL CONFRONTED LUKE: ULYSSES HAD FORESEEN HIM BREAKING DANNY OUT. A SUPER-POWERED FIGHT ENSUED, DAMAGING THE PRISON AND LETTING SOME JAILBIRDS FLY, INCLUDING BLACK MARIAH, WHOM LUKE AND DANNY DEFEATED WHEN SHE MADE A RUN AT TOMBSTONE'S TERRITORY. NOW POWER MAN AND IRON FIST (OUT ON PAROLE) ARE BACK ON THE STREETS, TRYING TO CLEAN UP THE MESS.

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#1

"HARLEM
BURNS"
STARTS

NOW!

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST

MARVEL

010



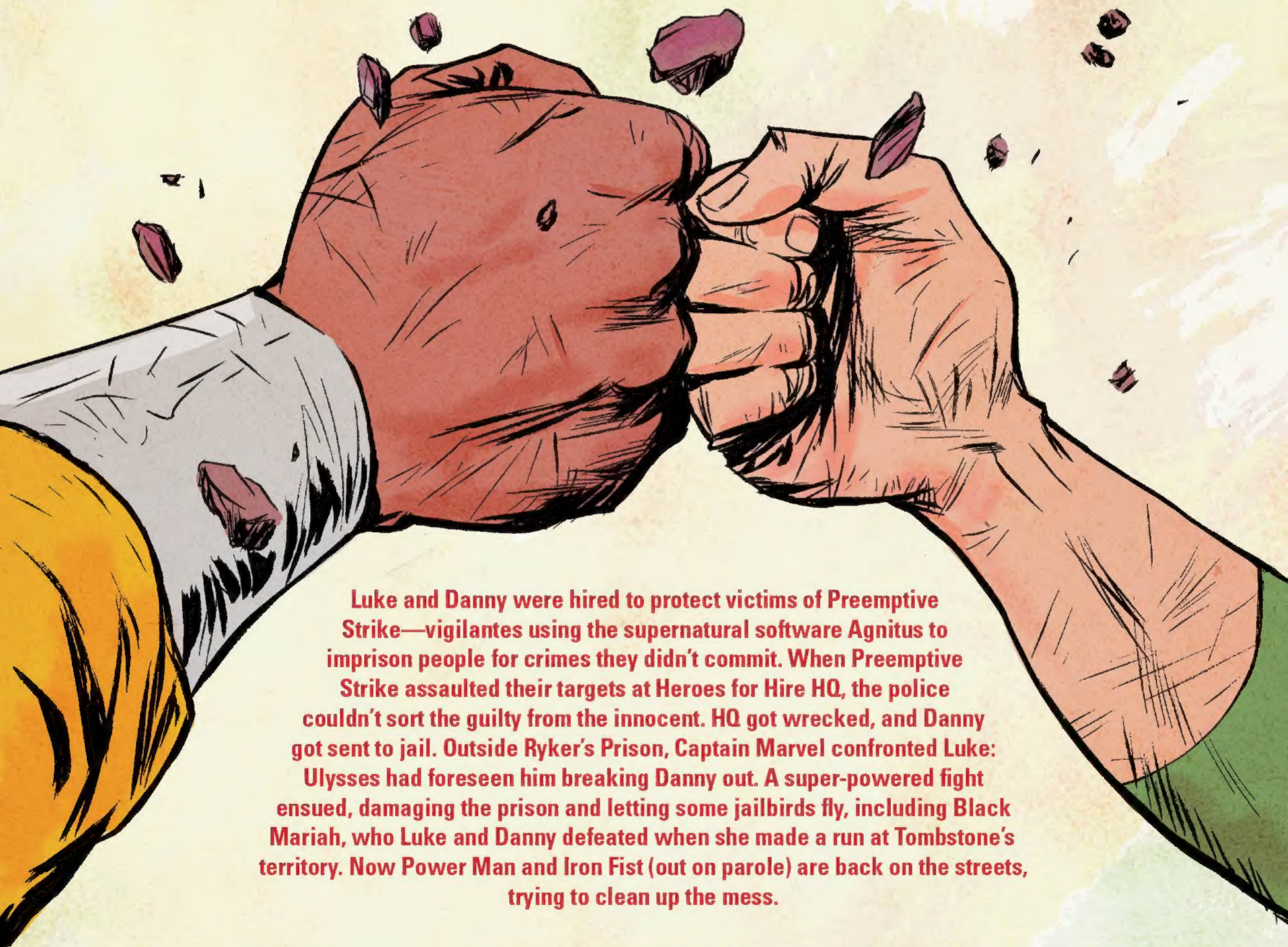
WALKER
GREENE
LOUGHRIDGE

Orphan Daniel Rand earned the power of the Iron Fist in the mystical city of K'un Lun. As an adult, Danny oversees the Rand Corporation and moonlights as Iron Fist: kung fu defender of the innocent.

Prisoner Luke Cage was subjected to experiments that gave him superhuman strength and durability. As Power Man, he's been a hero and an Avenger, and now a husband and father.

After years apart, they're back together as Heroes for Hire.

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST



Luke and Danny were hired to protect victims of Preemptive Strike—vigilantes using the supernatural software Agnitus to imprison people for crimes they didn't commit. When Preemptive Strike assaulted their targets at Heroes for Hire HQ, the police couldn't sort the guilty from the innocent. HQ got wrecked, and Danny got sent to jail. Outside Ryker's Prison, Captain Marvel confronted Luke: Ulysses had foreseen him breaking Danny out. A super-powered fight ensued, damaging the prison and letting some jailbirds fly, including Black Mariah, who Luke and Danny defeated when she made a run at Tombstone's territory. Now Power Man and Iron Fist (out on parole) are back on the streets, trying to clean up the mess.

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BACK IN THE DAY...

DON'T LIKE TO GET TOO CAUGHT UP IN WHAT COULD'VE BEEN, 'CAUSE THAT AIN'T HEALTHY. BUT WE COULD'VE BEEN SOMETHING SPECIAL.

BACK THEN, NONE OF US WAS SPECIAL--WE WAS ALL GETTIN' STARTED.

MORTIMER STILL LOOKED FREAKY, BUT HE AIN'T HAD ALL THAT SURGERY DONE.

RAYMOND AND CORNELL WERE JUST A COUPLE OF PUNKS.

LONNIE STILL TALKED NORMAL--NOT ALL WHISPERY-LIKE.

AND MARIAH--SHE WAS THICK. AND I LIKE 'EM THICK.

AS FOR ME, I WAS STILL JUST PLAIN OLD DONTRELL--AND IT WAS ALL MY IDEA.



I'M TELLING Y'ALL, THIS HERE WHAT WE GOTTA DO.

WE GET IT TOGETHER, WE CAN RULE EVERYTHING ACROSS 110TH STREET AND UP INTO THE BRONX.

IT WAS A GOOD IDEA.

WE COME UP WITH A GIMMICK--SOMETHING THAT IDENTIFIES US AS A COLLECTIVE FORCE--AND AIN'T NOBODY GONNA MESS WITH US.



AND IT WAS MY IDEA. NEVER FORGET THAT.

MIGHT NOT BE A BAD IDEA. PROBLEM IS KINGPIN'S GOT A LOCK ON EVERYTHING.

MAN, FORGET THAT MR. CLEAN-LOOKIN' FAT PIECE O' JELLY.

I GOT AN IDEA--SOMETHING THAT WILL GET FOOLS TALKIN'.

BUT IT WAS LONNIE THAT CAME UP WITH THE NEXT PHASE OF THE PLAN...



...GOTTA GIVE HIM CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE.

FILED TEETH. WHA'CHU ALL THINK?



CORNELL AND RAYMOND WENT ALONG WITH IT, BUT THEY WOULD'VE DONE WHATEVER LONNIE DID 'CAUSE THEY HAD NO REAL VISION.

CHECK IT--I'M FIXIN' TO CALL MYSELF COTTONMOUTH, LIKE THE SNAKE.

WORD. I'MA GO BY PIRANHA.



MORTIMER WAS THE ONE THAT CAME UP WITH THE NAME FOR THE GANG.

YEAH, BABY! CHECK IT! CHECK IT!

AIN'T NOBODY GONNA MESS WITH US. WE NEED TO CALL OURSELVES THE FANG GANG.



THAT'S HOW WE BECAME THE FANG GANG.

SEE I TOLD YOU SEE

WHAT YOU SAY TO ME, YOU OLD FISH-EYED FOOL?!



WE COULD'VE BEEN GREAT.

WATCH YOURSELF, SUCKA!

THAT AIN'T NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY!



IT WAS A GREAT IDEA.

MAYBE THAT WAS THE PROBLEM...

...MAYBE IT WAS TOO GREAT TO LAST.



BUT JUST IMAGINE
WHAT COULD'VE BEEN.

THE FANG
GANG.

BOTH OF
Y'ALL NEED TO
SLOW YOUR
ROLL!
WE GOT
A GOOD THING
GOIN' HERE!



THE STORIES
CATS WOULD'VE
TOLD ABOUT US...

WE CAN'T
LET IT ALL FALL
APART OVER SOME
FAT HEIFER.



...WOULD'VE
BEEN
GLORIOUS.

SLAAP

WHO YOU
CALLIN' FAT, YOU
LINCOLN-KILPATRICK-IN-THE-
OMEGA-MAN-LOOKIN'
MUTHAHUNCHER?!



NOBODY WOULD'VE
SURVIVED MESSIN'
WITH US, IF WE
COULD'VE JUST
SURVIVED
OURSELVES.

YOU GONNA BE SORRY YOU CALLED
ME FAT, LONNIE! SOMEDAY, I'MA
GET EVEN WITH YOUR
ALBINO ASS.

MARIAH...
WAIT UP!



THE FANG GANG.

THE GREATEST
GROUP OF
CRIMINALS THAT
NEVER WAS.

NOW.

TELL ME
AGAIN HOW THIS IS
OUR FAULT.

NOT
OUR FAULT--OUR
RESPONSIBILITY.

OKAY--
HOW IS IT OUR
RESPONSIBILITY?



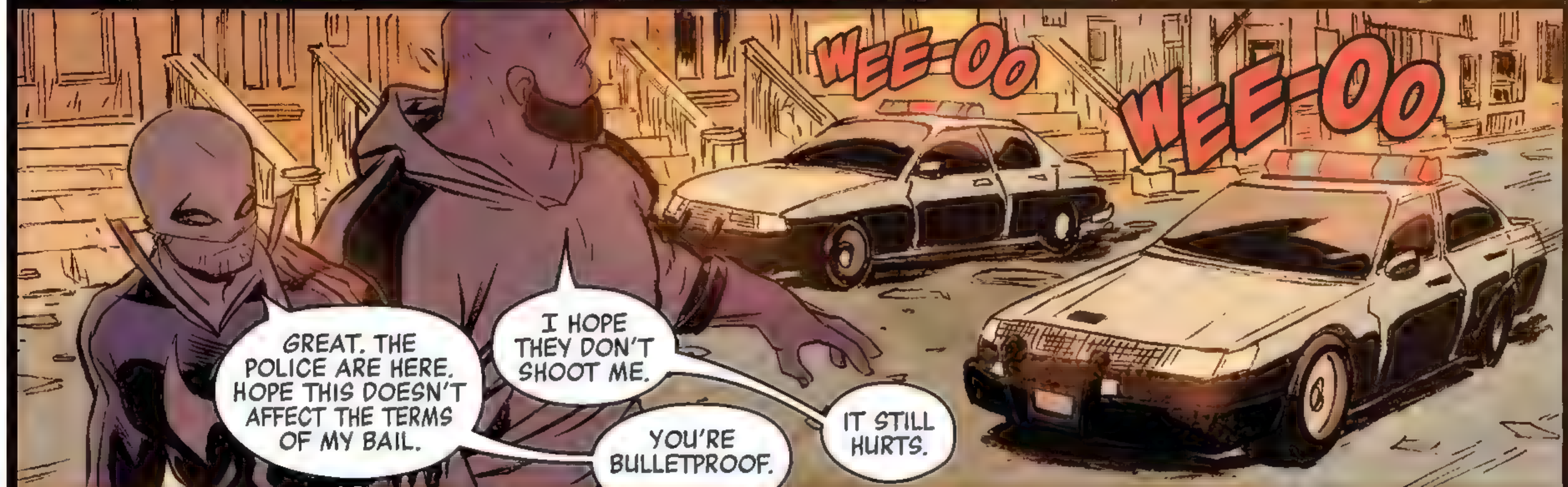
SOMEONE
HAS TO ROUND UP
THE CONVICTS THAT
ESCAPED FROM
RYKER'S.



NO DUH.

AND SOMEONE'S
GOTTA STOP GLOBAL
WARMING.





MEANWHILE...

WHA'CHU
GETTIN'
AT?

JUST
GETTIN' AT THE
TRUTH.

EVERYONE
KNOWS HOW YOU
GOT PLAYED BY MARIAH--
YOU NEVER SHOULD'VE
CALLED HER FAT, 'CAUSE
IT COME BACK TO
BITE YA,
HOMES...

...AND
LOOK AT YA
NOW...

...DONE LOST YA
GRIP. POWER BE SLIPPIN',
HOMES.

IS THAT
RIGHT? MY POWER
IS SLIPPIN'?

WORD IS
BOND, BRO. DAY
IS COMIN' WHEN
SOMEONE'S GONNA
TRY TO TAKE
YOU DOWN.

I HEAR TELL
BLACK CAT'S
GOT HER EYES
SET ON UPTOWN--
SHE GOT THAT
GENTRIFICATION
BUG.

WHY
YOU HERE,
MORT?

WHA'CHU
WANT?

POWER.
YOU GOT IT.
OTHERS WANNA
TAKE IT.

I'M
HERE TO HELP
YOU KEEP IT,
LONNIE.

RIDE OR
DIE, SON. RIDE
OR DIE.

LATER...

LOOK AT THIS--THESE CATS ARE DOING A GREAT JOB. GOTTA GIVE YOU CREDIT FOR MAKING THIS CALL, DANNY.

WELCOME TO MY WORLD.

THANKS. I WASN'T LOCKED UP IN RYKER'S THAT LONG--JUST LONG ENOUGH TO START SEEING THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

YOU GUYS ARE DOING A GREAT JOB, SHADRICK.

THANKS, MAN. WE'LL BE DONE REBUILDING THE OUTSIDE WALL LATER TODAY. THEN WE'LL GET STARTED ON REMODELING THE INTERIOR.

SHADRICK DANIELS

(REFORMED CRIMINAL FORMERLY KNOWN AS "MANGLER.")

CAN'T SAY HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY--ESPECIALLY AFTER ALL THE BEEF ME AND MR. CAGE HAD BACK IN THE DAY.

Y'ALL DIDN'T HAVE TO HELP ME CLEAR MY NAME, AND FOR REAL DIDN'T HAVE TO GIVE ME A JOB.

BEEN WHERE YOU ARE, MAN.

YOU TURNED IT AROUND. WE'RE JUST HERE TO HELP YOU STAY ON COURSE.

MOST DEFINITELY.

RIGHTEOUS.

KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON.





YOU'RE LATE.

YOU CALLED IT.

I CALLED IT.

I OWE YOU FIFTY BUCKS.



SORRY WE'RE LATE. THANKS FOR COMING.

LET'S GET TO IT.

A LOT OF BAD FIDDLE-FADDLE HAS GONE DOWN RECENTLY...



UM... EXCUSE ME... WHAT'S FIDDLE-FADDLE?



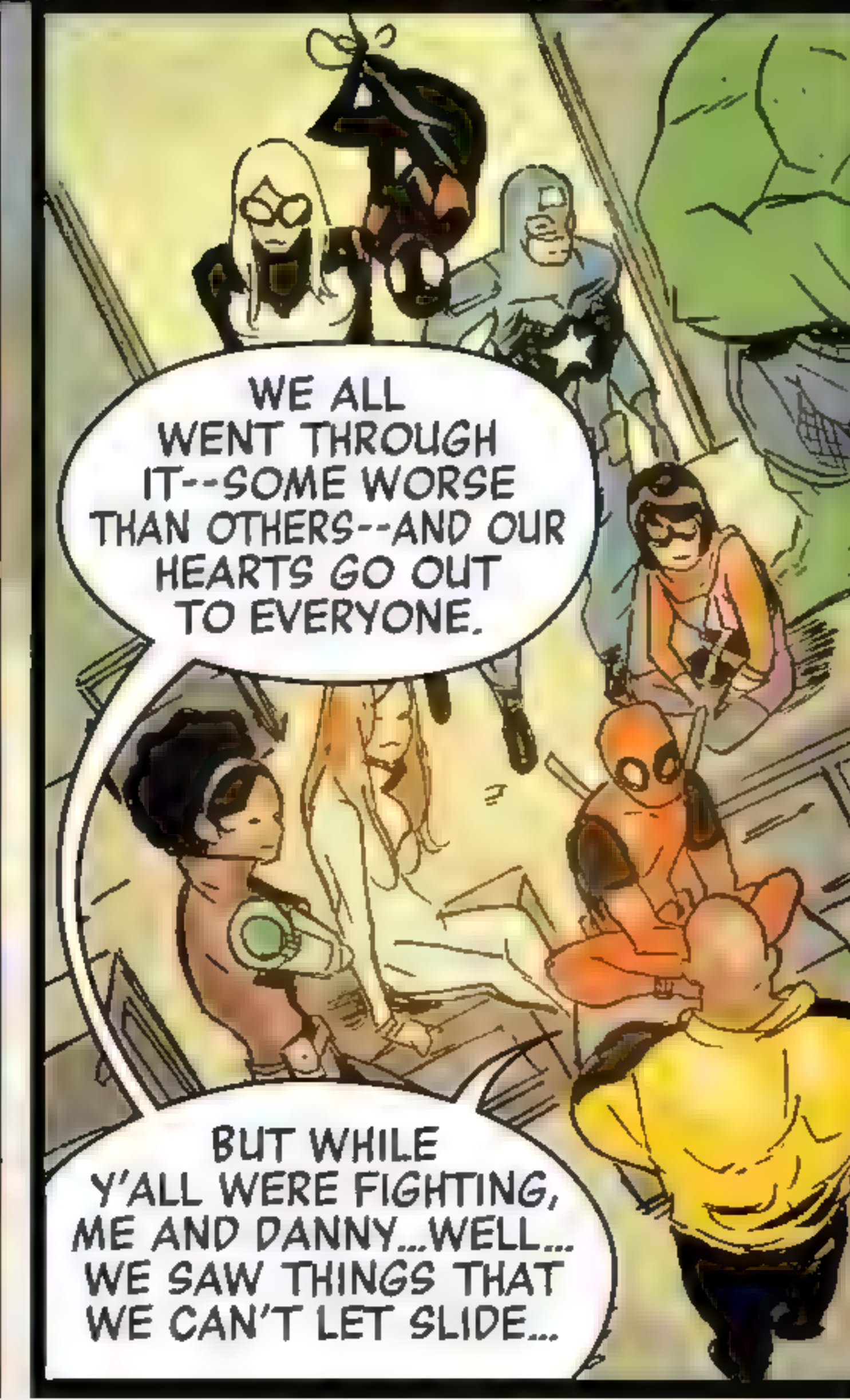
DANNY?

YEAH... UH... SEE, THERE'S FIDDLE-FADDLE, AND THEN THERE'S ICKY-YUCKY... AND FIDDLE-FADDLE IS DIFFERENT FROM ICKY-YUCKY, IN THAT IT IS... UM...



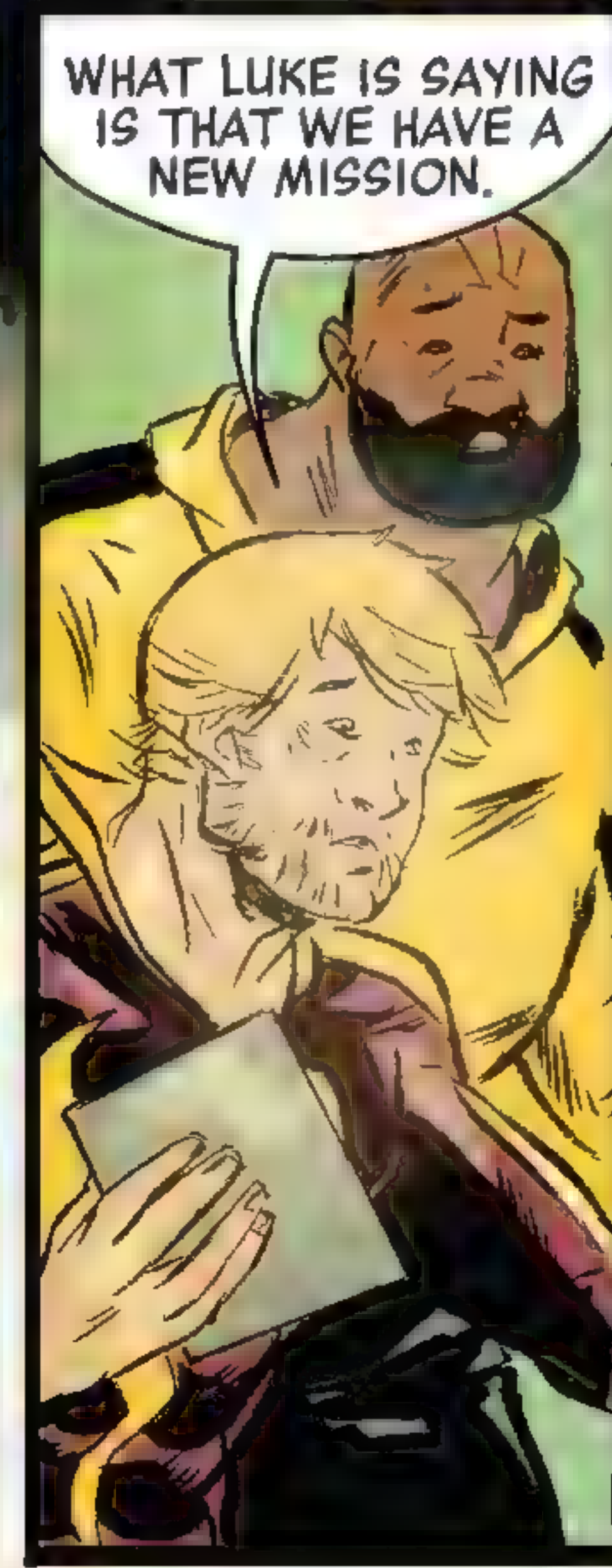
IT MEANS \$\$\$%. GOT IT?

A LOT OF BAD \$\$\$% HAS GONE DOWN.



WE ALL WENT THROUGH IT--SOME WORSE THAN OTHERS--AND OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO EVERYONE.

BUT WHILE Y'ALL WERE FIGHTING, ME AND DANNY... WELL... WE SAW THINGS THAT WE CAN'T LET SLIDE...



WHAT LUKE IS SAYING IS THAT WE HAVE A NEW MISSION.



WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU TELLING US?





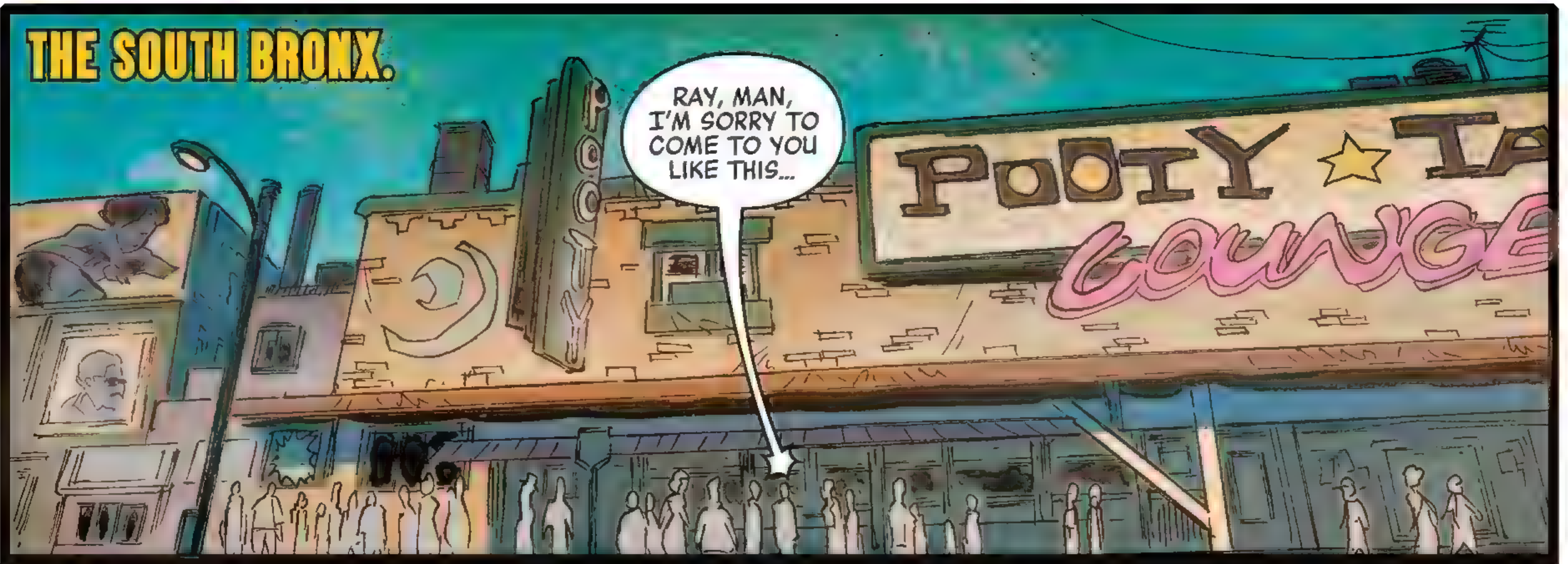
FOR ME
AND DANNY, OUR
TOP PRIORITIES ARE
TAKING DOWN WHOEVER
CREATED THIS SOFTWARE
AND MAKING SURE EVERY
WRONGLY INCARCERATED
PERSON IS SET
FREE.

WE'RE
TELLING ALL OF
YOU THIS BECAUSE THIS IS
WHAT WE'RE DOING, PERIOD. IF
SOMEONE IS IN PRISON BECAUSE
OF RECORDS THIS SOFTWARE
MANIPULATED--EVEN IF THAT
SOMEONE HAS A PRIOR
RECORD...

...WE'RE
GETTING THEM
OUT. LEGALLY. THROUGH
PROPER CHANNELS. BUT
NO ONE IS DOING TIME FOR
A CRIME THEY DIDN'T
COMMIT ON OUR
WATCH.

ANY
QUESTIONS?

THE SOUTH BRONX.



RAY, MAN,
I'M SORRY TO
COME TO YOU
LIKE THIS...

...BUT I AIN'T GOT NO PLACE ELSE TO GO.
MY CREW IS GONE. EVERYTHING I HAD HAS
BEEN JACKED--EITHER BY THE FEDS
OR BY LONNIE.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT TO DO.
YOU FEEL ME?

YOU DONE
RIGHT COMIN'
HERE, FAM...

**CORNELL
"COTTONMOUTH"
STOKES**

(ESCAPED CONVICT, FOUNDING
MEMBER OF THE ILL-FATED FANG GANG.)

...YOU
KNOW I GOT
YOUR BACK.

WE GET
SOME FOOD IN
YOU, CLEAN YOU UP,
PUT YOU IN SOME NEW
VINES, AND YOU BE
GOOD TO GO.

EVEN
GOT A LITTLE
SOMETHING
LINED UP.

WORD?

**RAYMOND
"PIRANHA" JONES**

(LOW LEVEL CRIME BOSS, COTTONMOUTH'S THIRD
COUSIN, TWICE REMOVED, ON HIS STEPFATHER'S SIDE.)

GOTTA
TELL YOU, MAN--
NEVER THOUGHT I'D
GET OUTTA THE
BING.

GOOD THING
THEM HEROES CAN'T
KEEP FROM SLAPPIN'
THEMSELVES AROUND
LIKE THEY OWE EACH
OTHER MONEY.



AIN'T JUST THEM
FIGHTIN'--THERE'S A LOT
OF REAL ESTATE IN PLAY,
ESPECIALLY UPTOWN.
YOU FEEL ME?

WHAT ABOUT
LONNIE? HE'S GOT
ALL OF MATTY-HATTY
LOCKED DOWN NORTH
OF, WHAT, 96TH
STREET?

LONNIE HAD IT
ALL LOCKED DOWN,
BUT EMPIRES FALL. AND
HIS EMPIRE IS
CRUMBLIN'.



YOU KNOW
I AIN'T GOT NO
LOVE FOR LONNIE--
'SPECIALLY AFTER WHAT
HE PULLED THAT LAST TIME.
I KNOW HE'S THE ONE
THAT SOLD ME
OUT.

BUT,
OTHER THAN FISK,
CAN'T NOBODY HOLD
IT TOGETHER
LIKE LONNIE
LINCOLN.

YOU GOT
A PLAN TO BRING
HIM DOWN...HELL, I'LL
SWING THE AX. BUT IT'S
GOTTA BE A GOOD PLAN,
'CAUSE TOMBSTONE
DON'T FALL
EASY.



GOT MORE
THAN A PLAN--GOT
ME A PARTNER IN CRIME,
AND THIS BROAD IS AS
BAD AS SHE IS COLD-
BLOODED. I'M TALKIN'
RICK JAMES, COOOLD-
BLOOOODED.

OH, RAYMOND--
I LOVE IT WHEN YOU
TALK ABOUT ME BY REFERENCING
MY FAVORITE MUSICIAN,
BUT PLEASE...

**FELICIA
"BLACK CAT"
HARDY**

(CRIME BOSS
WITH A PLAN.)

...IF YOU
CALL ME A BROAD
ONE MORE TIME, I'LL
CUT OUT YOUR
TONGUE.

NOW, LET'S
GET DOWN TO
BUSINESS. TOMBSTONE'S
TIME IS UP. LET'S SHOW
HIM WHAT WE'RE MADE
OF--AS WE CONQUER
HIS KINGDOM.





...YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON SEÑOR MÁGICO.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

THAT IS A COMPLICATED STORY...



"...THE AGNITUS WAS PROTECTED BY A MAGICAL SPELL.

"IT TURNS OUT THE SPELL OF PROTECTION WAS EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN I HAD IMAGINED.

"I'M LUCKY MY SOUL WASN'T DEVoured AND THEN TRANSFORMED INTO DEMONIC EXCREMENT--A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH."



DEMONIC EXCREMENT?

NEVER MIND ALL OF THAT.

WHAT ABOUT THE AGNITUS? WERE YOU ABLE TO GET THROUGH THE MAGICAL PROTECTION SPELL?

THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU--NOT ONLY DID I FAIL TO GET THROUGH THE SPELL...A SHAME THAT BURNS DEEP IN MY SOUL...

...SOMEONE STOLE THE AGNITUS FROM ME.







"...I WILL HELP YOU FIND HIM."

DONTRELL, WHAT KIND OF MESS HAVE YOU GOTTEN ME INTO THIS TIME?

GIRL, I AIN'T GETTIN' YOU INTO NO MESS-- I'M GETTIN' YOU OUTTA ONE.

YOU KNOW I ALWAYS TAKE CARE OF MY FOLKS...

...AND YOU MY FOLKS, GIRL.

DON'T TRY TO GET UP IN MY COOKIE JAR, DONTRELL.

I'M JUST HOOKIN' YOU UP WITH THIS NEW PLAYA-PLAYA IN TOWN. HE TOOK CARE OF ME, HE CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS, MARIAH...

DONTRELL "COCKROACH" HAMILTON
(CRIMINAL/LOWLIFE.)

...YOU DON'T KNOW ME--DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M ABOUT. AND I LOOK YOUNG, WHICH MAKES YOU QUESTION MY ABILITY TO DO WHATEVER DONTRELL CLAIMS I CAN.

THAT'S RIGHT, BOSS--

LET THE LADY SPEAK FOR HERSELF.

ME AND MY HOMEGIRL ESCAPED FROM RYKER'S THE OTHER DAY. BEEN LYIN' LOW UNTIL WE CAN COME UP WITH A PLAN.

DONTRELL SAYS YOU CAN... FIX THINGS.

I'M TELLIN' YOU, GIRL. BIG BOSS-MAN HERE IS MAKIN' A DEAL YOU CAN'T TURN DOWN.

I HEARD ABOUT WHAT YOU DID TO TOMBSTONE-- YOU AND YOUR FRIEND.

JENNIE. THAT'S MY HOMEGIRL.

I CAN HELP YOU BOTH-- IF YOU COME WORK FOR ME.

YOU WANT ME TO WORK FOR YOU?

TELLIN' YOU, HE'S MAKIN' THE BEST OFFER YOU EVER HEARD.

I DON'T KNOW HIM, DONTRELL.

AND HE DON'T KNOW ME.

YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW MUCH I KNOW ABOUT YOU, MARIAH.

YOU BEEN RUNNING SMALL CREWS BUT GETTING NO RESPECT.

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU-- SOMEONE TO HELP ME GET MY NEW OPERATION UP AND RUNNING.

WHAT OPERATION YOU TALKIN' 'BOUT?

SOMETHING
I'VE BEEN PUTTING
TOGETHER FOR A
WHILE NOW...

...I'M
THINKING
OF CALLING IT
THE NEW
PRIDE.

ALEX WILDER

(FORMER RUNAWAY,
ASPIRING CRIME BOSS,
BACK FROM THE DEAD.)

TO BE CONTINUED...

LUKE LETTERS & DANNY DIATRIBES

Hello, fiddle-faddlin' fans!

Here it is, the start of our new big story, HARLEM BURNS! How about that last page reveal, huh? For anyone out here unfamiliar with the awesome character Alex Wilder, get thee to your local comic store and pick up a copy of the original RUNAWAYS run posthaste!

We just announced Alex's appearance at NYCC, any chance any of you were there? David and Sanford were practically mobbed all weekend by you awesome fans, and we just wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for the amazing support you've given the book. Sanford and David were overwhelmed with all the love!

David, Sanford, Kathleen, and I all went out to a nice planning dinner where we talked through some of the plans David and Sanford are cooking up...let me tell you, if you've been liking the book so far, these guys are just getting started!

But enough of my jibber-jabber, let's get to David's answers to your emails. Take it away, David!

Hi,

I am absolutely loving this comic. It's got amazing action that doesn't take itself too seriously. It perfectly captures the genre. The art is colorful and full of energy and emotion. The writing is hilarious but also hints at tension and drama that is hidden under the surface. I hope you guys come up with some new threats and foes, both K'un Lun- and New York-based.

Thanks lads,
Micah Scott
N. Ireland

P.S. How about a Northern Irish hero, since they're currently aren't any in Marvel?

Okay, he's not from Northern Ireland, but Phil Lynott of Thin Lizzy is Irish, and one of the greatest super heroes of all time. Any shortage of Marvel heroes from Ireland and Northern Ireland can be directly traced to Lynott and Cú Chulainn, who pretty much have you covered in both real life and mythology. But I'll see what I can do.

Dear fiddle-faddling (is that the

appropriate verb form of that euphemism?) awesome creators of POWER MAN AND IRON FIST,

Thank you for this book! I've been a fan of these two for as long as I've been reading comics, and in these pages they're kicking some major butt. Their relationship reminds me of myself and my brother, and their back and forth sounds just like some exchanges I've actually had with him. I think it's one of the greatest parts of comics when we can see ourselves in the characters, so please keep being awesome!

Sincerely,
Nathaniel B
Missoula, MT

We will keep being awesome, but only if you keep being awesome. And we'll assume your brother is awesome as well.

I've never felt the need to email about how amazing a comic is before, but this new series has finally given me a reason. I love Luke Cage and Danny Rand so much, and this series has been just about perfect from the get-go. You all have taken two of my favorite super heroes of all time, and one of my favorite comics friendships of all time, and given them a new spin that's been a blast to read and one of my most anticipated books of the month. I just wanted to thank you guys for the amazing work you've been doing.

Patrick Gaertner
Denver, CO

Pat...can I call you "Pat"? You rock.

Hello PMIF crew,

I just finished reading issues #2-6 and I wanted to say a quick thank you for resurrecting one of my all-time favorite comic series. I own every issue ever printed and pretty much every appearance by Luke and Danny. I can't even guess at how many times I have read the entire run.

PMIF is easily the most "fun" comic I am reading right now. The art is a little goofy but I think it fits the tone of the book well. And it literally makes me laugh out loud multiple times each issue. The running "fiddle-faddle" gag still hasn't gotten old for me. My only minor quibble is the fact Black Tarantula was fighting Iron Fist even

though the two are actually friends (Carlos hasn't been a villain for a long time now).

I hope this book is around for a long time and I wish you folks all the best. If I could make one request it would be to see D.W. Griffith some time down the road (I'm a sucker for lore and continuity).

Thank you,
Dan

P.S. I think the best thing about this comic is seeing that classic logo from my childhood at the top of every issue. :)

Dude, c'mon, you know Black Tarantula has what can best be described as a moral compass that doesn't always point in the right direction. I'm not gonna challenge you to a nerd-off...but you know it's true. With that in mind...you never know when he'll come back, and be on his better behavior.

That brings us to the end of this month's letters page. Keep those letters coming in, we love hearing from you, and who knows what can happen (oh man, I hope we bring Black Tarantula back, I love that guy!).

Stay Weird!

-Jake T.

NEXT ISSUE:



MARVEL

011

WALKER

GREENE

LOUGHRIDGE

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST

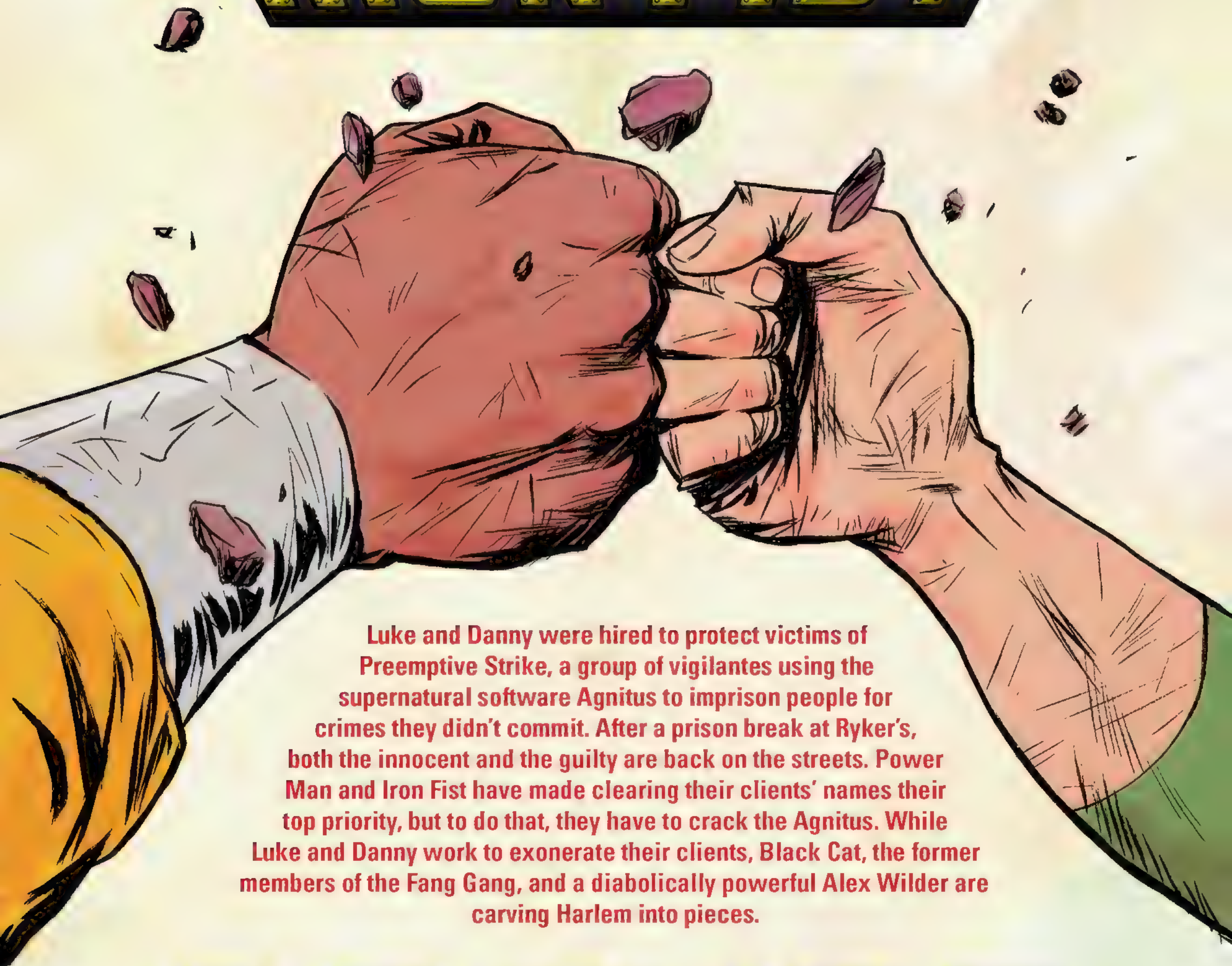


Orphan Daniel Rand earned the power of the Iron Fist in the mystical city of K'un Lun. As an adult, Danny oversees the Rand Corporation and moonlights as Iron Fist: kung fu defender of the innocent.

Prisoner Luke Cage was subjected to experiments that gave him superhuman strength and durability. As Power Man, he's been a hero and an Avenger, and now a husband and father.

After years apart, they're back together as Heroes for Hire.

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST



Luke and Danny were hired to protect victims of Preemptive Strike, a group of vigilantes using the supernatural software Agnitius to imprison people for crimes they didn't commit. After a prison break at Ryker's, both the innocent and the guilty are back on the streets. Power Man and Iron Fist have made clearing their clients' names their top priority, but to do that, they have to crack the Agnitius. While Luke and Danny work to exonerate their clients, Black Cat, the former members of the Fang Gang, and a diabolically powerful Alex Wilder are carving Harlem into pieces.

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VC's CLAYTON COWLES
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JOE QUESADA
chief creative officer

DAN BUCKLEY
publisher

ALAN FINE
exec. producer

BACK IN THE DAY...

A THERAPIST IN PRISON ONCE TOLD ME "DONTRELL, YOU SPEND TOO MUCH TIME RUMINATIN' WHICH LEADS TO REGRET, WHICH LEADS TO RESENTMENT"

SHE SAID I HAD TOO MUCH RESENTMENT FOR MY OLD CREW--THE FANG GANG

RESENTMENT THAT LONNIE WENT ON TO GREATNESS WITHOUT ME

RESENTMENT THAT RAYMOND AND CORNELL NEVER INCLUDED ME IN THEIR HUSTLES--THEY JUST LOOKED DOWN ON ME, LIKE DONTRELL WAS A SUCKER

THERAPIST NEVER SAID NOTHIN' 'BOUT NO RESENTMENT FOR MORTIMER--BUT THAT DON'T SURPRISE ME

YOU CAN'T RESENT SOMEONE THAT LOOKS LIKE A FISH, 'CAUSE WELL, THEY LOOK LIKE A FISH



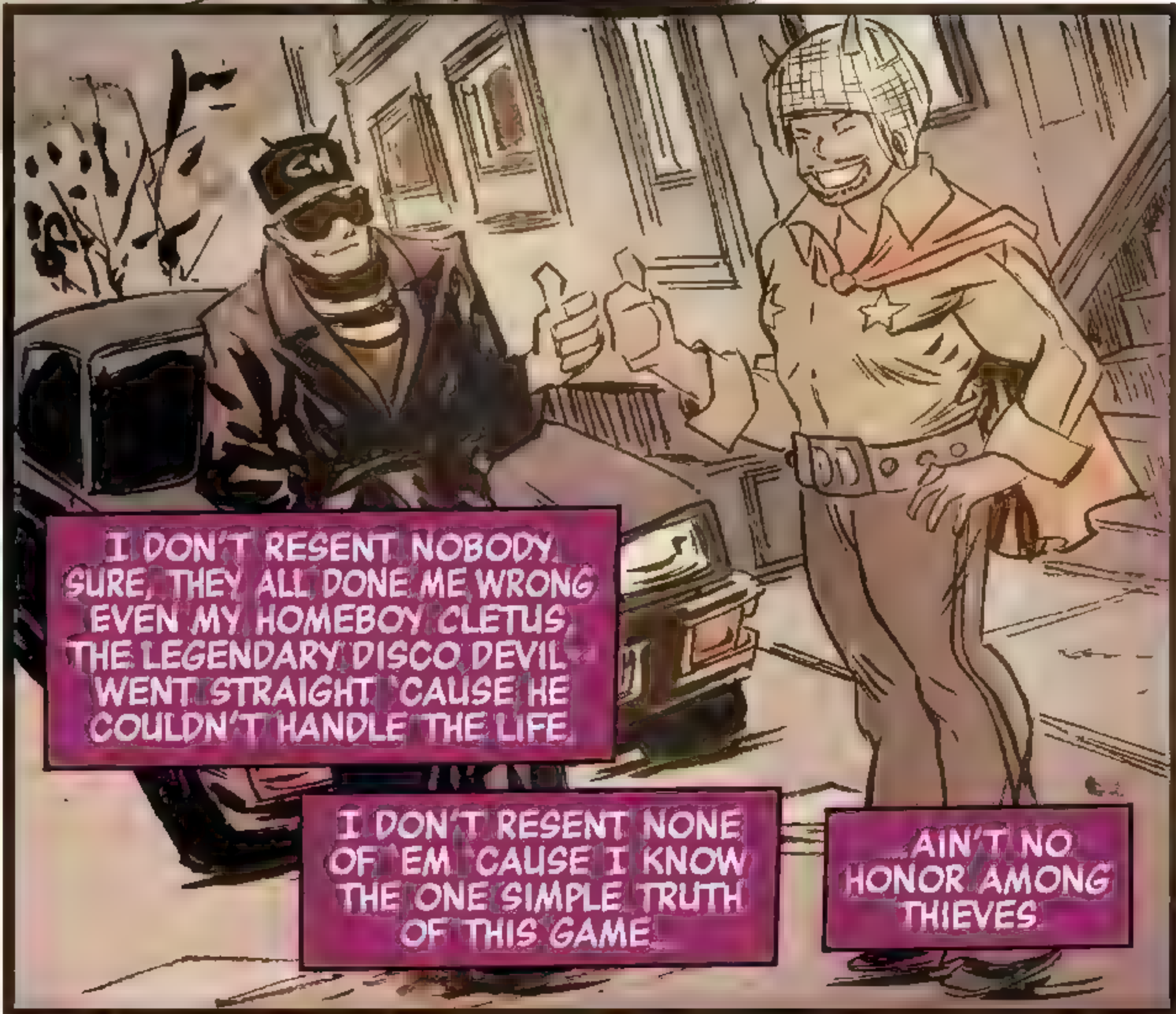
NEVER TALKED TO THE THERAPIST 'BOUT MARIAH. NOTHIN' TO TELL NO CAUSE FOR RESENTMENT

IN FACT, I DON'T THINK THAT THERAPIST KNEW ANYTHING

I DON'T RESENT NOBODY. SURE, THEY ALL DONE ME WRONG. EVEN MY HOMEBODY CLETUS, THE LEGENDARY DISCO DEVIL, WENT STRAIGHT 'CAUSE HE COULDN'T HANDLE THE LIFE

I DON'T RESENT NONE OF 'EM 'CAUSE I KNOW THE ONE SIMPLE TRUTH OF THIS GAME

AIN'T NO HONOR AMONG THIEVES



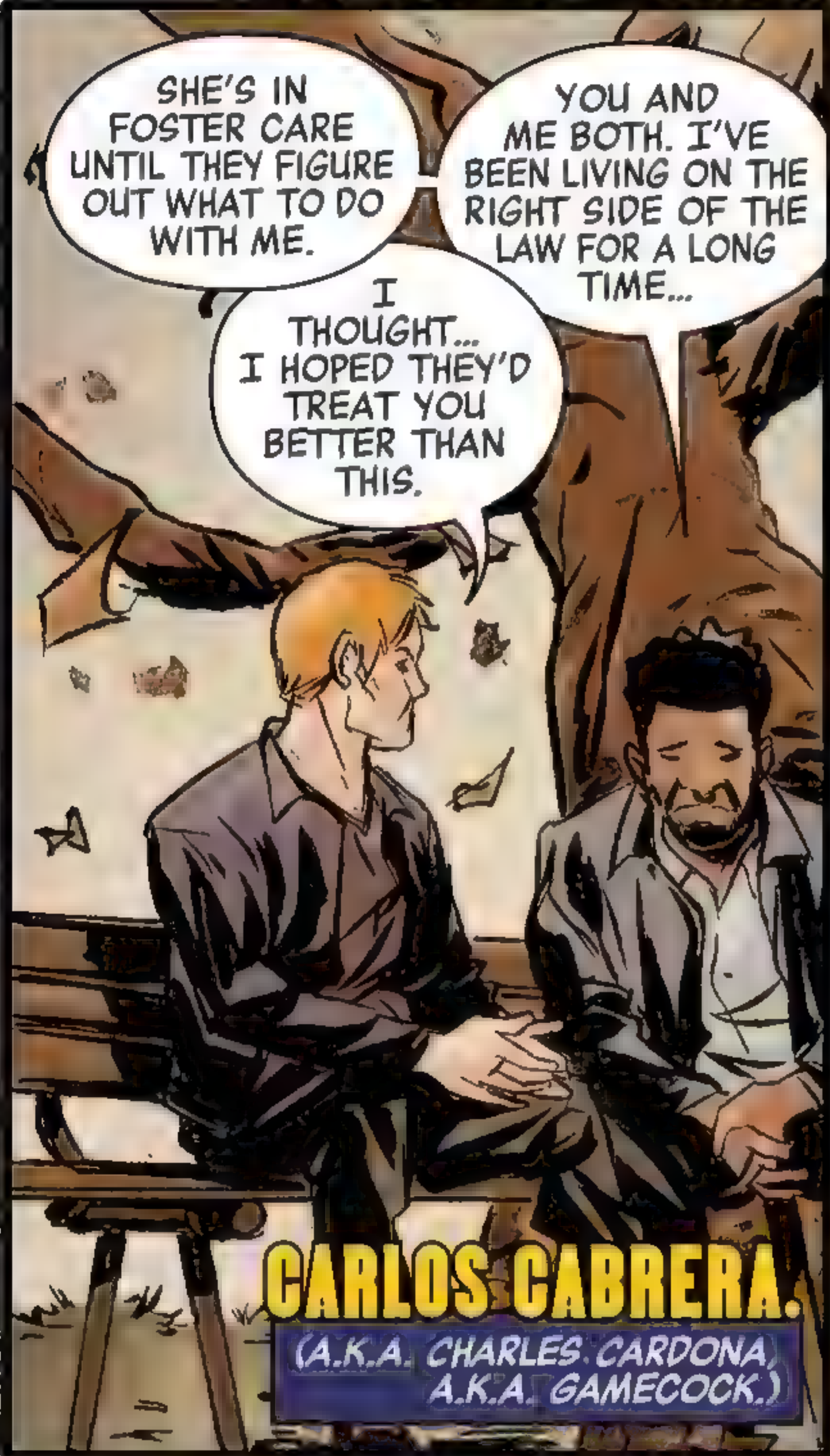


YOU SURE THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, CARLOS?

WHAT ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER, MARTA?

YOU'VE DONE A LOT, MR. RAND-- DANNY.

I APPRECIATE EVERYTHING, BUT RIGHT NOW IT'S ALL ABOUT THE LAWYERS DOIN' THAT THING LAWYERS DO.



SHE'S IN FOSTER CARE UNTIL THEY FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH ME.

YOU AND ME BOTH. I'VE BEEN LIVING ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW FOR A LONG TIME...

I THOUGHT... I HOPED THEY'D TREAT YOU BETTER THAN THIS.

CARLOS CABRERA.
(A.K.A. CHARLES CARDONA, A.K.A. GAMECOCK.)



...BUT WHEN YOU'VE GOT A PAST, YOU'VE GOT A PAST.

DOESN'T HELP THAT I FAKED MY DEATH AND HAVE BEEN LIVING UNDER AN ASSUMED IDENTITY FOR YEARS.

HELL, THAT ONLY MAKES ALL OF THIS WORSE. LIMITS MY OPTIONS EVEN MORE.



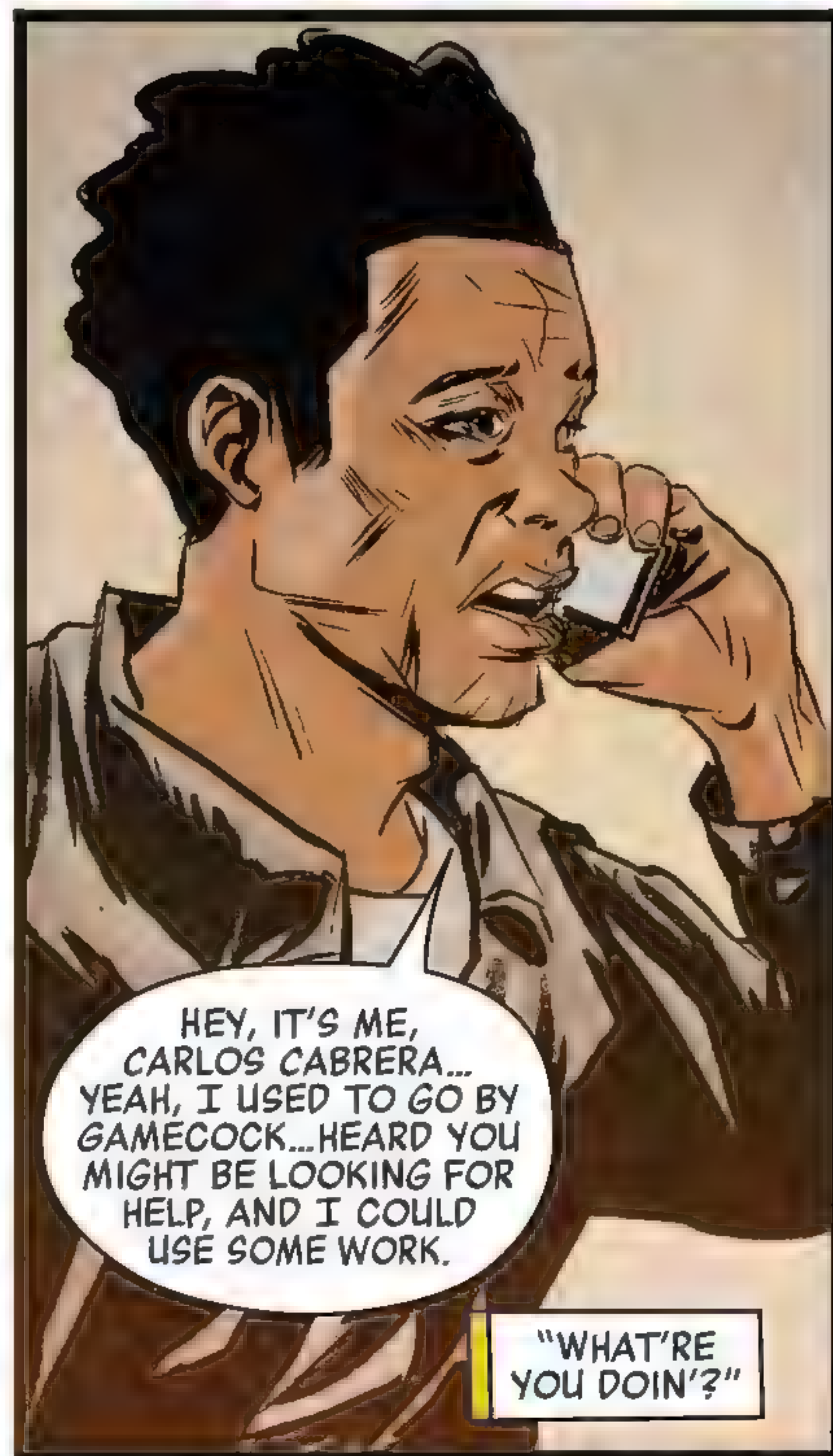
YOU'RE NOT IN THIS ALONE. ME AND LUKE, WE'RE WORKING TO HELP EVERYONE CAUGHT UP IN THIS... WHATEVER IT IS.

GRACIAS. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.



I'M SURE YOU CAN. ANYTHING YOU NEED, THOUGH, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND US.



HEY, IT'S ME, CARLOS CABRERA... YEAH, I USED TO GO BY GAMECOCK... HEARD YOU MIGHT BE LOOKING FOR HELP, AND I COULD USE SOME WORK.

"WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?"



CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL.

YOU AIN'T SEEN WHAT THESE PEOPLE CAN DO--I'M TALKIN' SOME BROTHER-VOODOO-LEVEL MUMBO JUMBO.



CLETUS, YOU BEEN MISSING FOR OVER A WEEK.

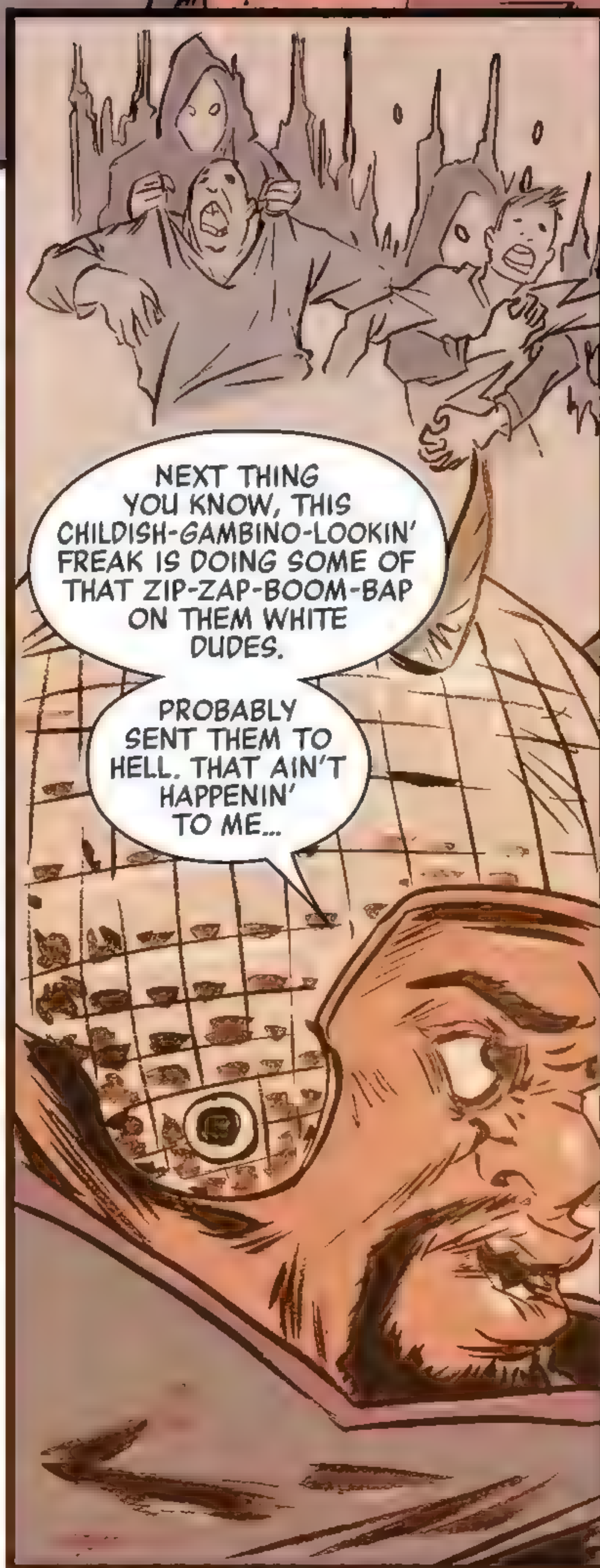
I SENT YOU AND DONTRELL TO INVESTIGATE SOMETHING FOR ME--AND THEN NOT A WORD.

AIN'T BEEN MISSING, CAGE--I'VE BEEN HIDING...



...SEE, I LEFT THIS LIFE BEHIND. I AIN'T DISCO DEVIL NO MORE. LIKE THE KIDS SAY, I JUST WANNA MAX AND RELAX.

FIRST, I GET DRAGGED INTO WHATEVER NONSENSE DONTRELL HAMILTON IS CAUGHT UP IN--THEN I'M HELPING YOU OUT.



NEXT THING YOU KNOW, THIS CHILDISH-GAMBINO-LOOKIN' FREAK IS DOING SOME OF THAT ZIP-ZAP-BOOM-BAP ON THEM WHITE DUDES.

PROBABLY SENT THEM TO HELL. THAT AIN'T HAPPENIN' TO ME...



...I AIN'T GETTIN' ZIP-ZAP-BOOM-BAPPED.

YOU FINISHED?

NO...

"...CHILDISH GAMBINO,
HE KNEW WHO WE WERE--
OFFERED US JOBS.

"COCKROACH JOINED
HIM, 'CAUSE
DONTRELL IS A
SPINELESS CHUMP."



**15 SECONDS
LATER...**

YEAH, I FOUND HIM.
STILL NO SIGN OF
COCKROACH
HAMILTON.

HOW'RE
THINGS ON
YOUR END? HOW'D
IT GO WITH
CARLOS?

HE'S
IN A TOUGH
SPOT. HE'S OUT
ON BOND UNTIL HIS
ARRAIGNMENT, BUT
THE PROSECUTORS
WANT HIM BACK
IN PRISON.

THE WAY I
SEE IT, HE'S EITHER
GOING BACK, OR HE'S
GOING ON THE
RUN.

DAMN. THE MAN CLEANED UP HIS
LIFE--HE'S GOT A DAUGHTER. AND
NOW IT'S ALL FALLING
APART.

I'VE GOT
CLETUS WITH ME--
TAKING HIM TO CHECK
OUT THAT SPOT HE
WAS SUPPOSED TO
INVESTIGATE...

...MAYBE I CAN
FIGURE OUT WHAT
HAPPENED TO COCKROACH
HAMILTON--GET A BETTER
SENSE OF WHAT'S REALLY
HAPPENING HERE.

I'M HEADING
BACK TO THE OFFICE--
SEE IF GADGET HAS MADE
ANY HEADWAY WITH THAT
SOFTWARE.

HATE TO
LEAVE CARLOS
LIKE THIS,
BUT...

"...HE'S A GOOD MAN.
I'M SURE HE'LL
FIGURE IT OUT."

I
APPRECIATE
THE OPPORTUNITY.
I'LL BE OVER
THERE RIGHT
AWAY.

MEANWHILE...

BACK ROOM OF THE POOTIE
TANG LOUNGE THE BRONX



OKAY, ONE
MORE TIME--
THIS TRUCK IS
THE ARMORED
CAR...

BUT IT
DON'T LOOK
LIKE NO ARMORED
CAR--IT JUST LOOKS
LIKE A PLAIN OLD
TRUCK.

RAYMOND,
SWEETIE, USE
YOUR IMAGINATION.
THIS IS AN
ARMORED
CAR...



...THE SAME
ARMORED CAR
THAT DELIVERS CASH TO
TOMBSTONE'S CHECK-
CASHING OPERATIONS
EVERY FRIDAY.

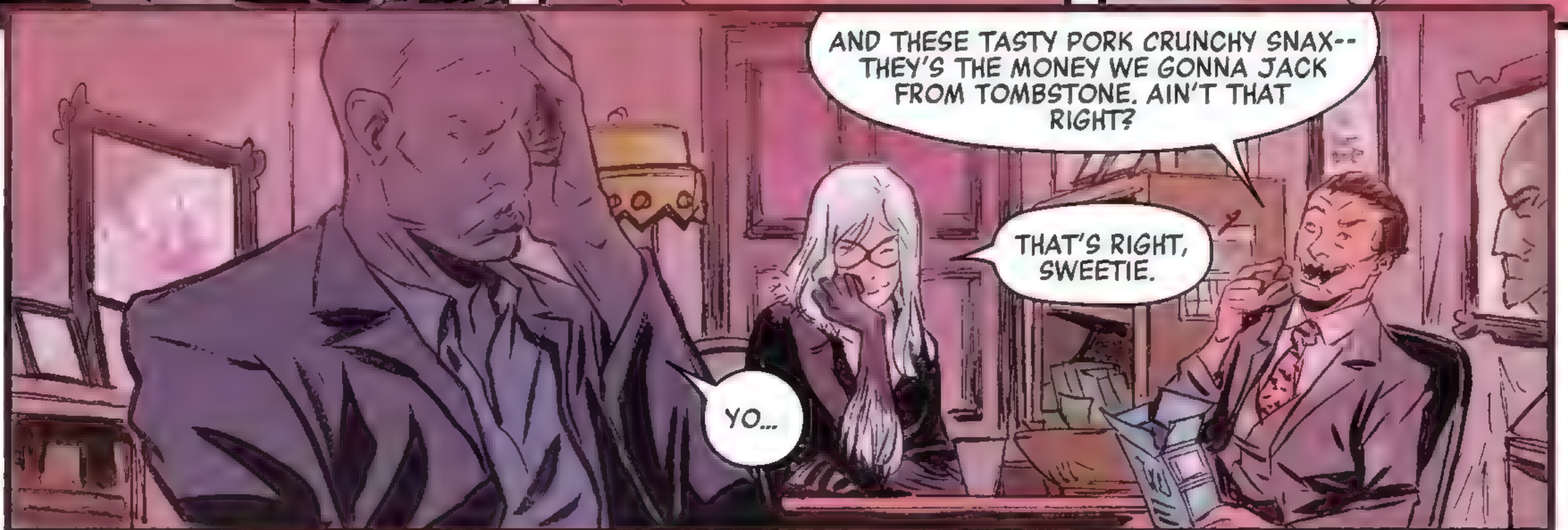
HE ALWAYS
BRINGS IN EXTRA
CASH ON FRIDAYS
BECAUSE IT'S
PAYDAY.



NOW, WHEN
THE ARMORED CAR
SHOWS UP TO THE
CHECK-CASHING
PLACE--

THAT'S
THIS BOX OF
PORK CRUNCHY
SNAX?

CORRECT.



AND THESE TASTY PORK CRUNCHY SNAX--
THEY'S THE MONEY WE GONNA JACK
FROM TOMBSTONE. AIN'T THAT
RIGHT?

THAT'S RIGHT,
SWEETIE.

YO...



...IS THIS
\$%&# FOR
REAL?

Y'ALL UP IN
HERE, PLAYIN' WITH
TOY TRUCKS, EATIN' PORK
RINDS, AND PLANNIN'
AN ARMORED CAR
RIP-OFF?

THAT'S
YOUR BIG PLAN TO
BRING DOWN LONNIE
LINCOLN'S CRIMINAL
EMPIRE?



DO YOU HAVE A BETTER PLAN, CORNELL?

YEAH, YOU GOT A BETTER PLAN, CORNELL?

YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, RAYMOND, GONNA QUESTION CORNELL?!



WHO SAVED YOU FROM PUNISHER? FROM MOON KNIGHT? WHO TOLD YOU NOT TO EAT THEM CLAMS THAT GAVE YOU FOOD POSIONIN'?

LOOK AT YOU--BADASS PIRANHA JONES, RUNNIN' A POOT-BUTT GANG OUTTA THE BRONX, TURNIN' ON ME, CORNELL, OVER SOME BIG BOOTY BROAD THAT'S PLAYIN' YOU FOR A FOOL.

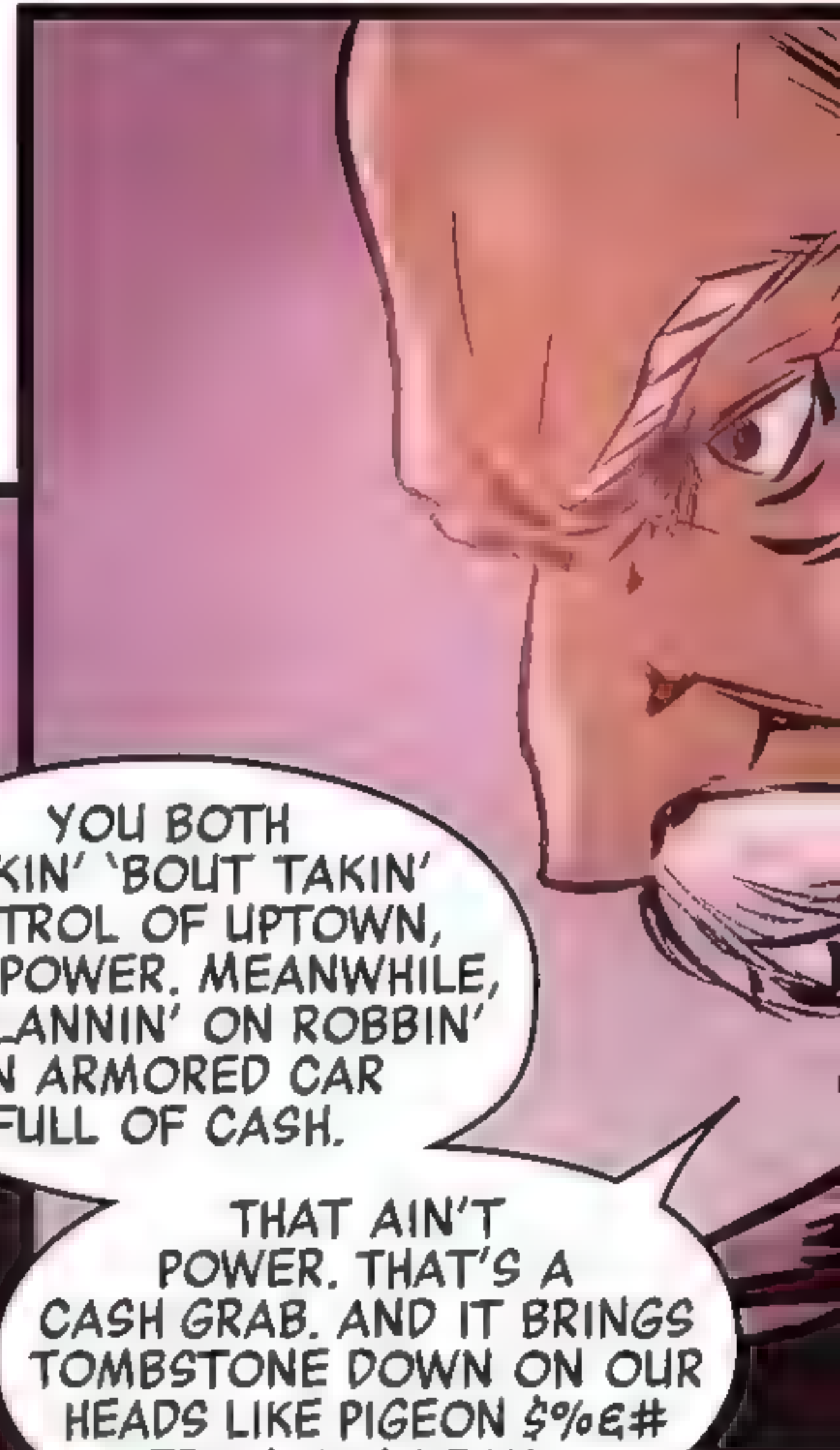


NEVER TALK ABOUT ME LIKE THAT...



AND NEVER TRY TO PUT YOUR HANDS ON CORNELL AGAIN, WOMAN.

CORNELL GOT AN ITCHY BACKHAND, AND HIS MAMA AIN'T RAISE HIM RIGHT. YOU FEEL ME?



YOU BOTH TALKIN' 'BOUT TAKIN' CONTROL OF UPTOWN, 'BOUT POWER. MEANWHILE, YOU PLANNIN' ON ROBBIN' AN ARMORED CAR FULL OF CASH.

THAT AIN'T POWER. THAT'S A CASH GRAB. AND IT BRINGS TOMBSTONE DOWN ON OUR HEADS LIKE PIGEON \$%&# FROM A MILE UP.

NOW, EITHER BLACK CAT HERE IS TOO STUPID TO KNOW THIS, OR SHE'S PLAYIN' YOU, RAYMOND.

THANKS FOR THE CLOTHES, AND LOOKIN' OUT FOR CORNELL WHEN HE NEEDED A HAND.

BUT CORNELL CAN'T BE PART OF THIS DUMB \$%&#.

WATCH OUT FOR THAT BIG BOOTY AND A SMILE, HOMIE--IT'S GONNA GET YOU IN TROUBLE.

HEROES FOR HIRE HQ.

GADGET, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON THIS FOR, WHAT--NEARLY TWO WEEKS? PLEASE TELL ME YOU HAVE SOMETHING NEW.

MR. RAND, IT'S LIKE I KEEP TELLING MR. CAGE...

...THE AGNITUS SOFTWARE IS THE MOST SOPHISTICATED COMPUTER PROGRAM I'VE EVER SEEN.

KEEP TALKING LIKE THAT AND YOU'LL RUIN YOUR REPUTATION FOR BEING THE SMARTEST KID IN CLASS.

I MANAGED TO CLONE THE AGNITUS SOFTWARE, FIGURE OUT WHAT IT DOES, AND, I THINK, HOW IT WORKS.

THE TRICK HAS BEEN FINDING THE MAINFRAME THAT HOSTS THE SYSTEM, BECAUSE WITHOUT ACCESS TO THAT WE CAN'T UNDO ANYTHING AGNITUS HAS DONE.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

THIS ENTIRE SYSTEM WAS DESIGNED TO INTERACT WITH AND ALTER ANY EXISTING CRIMINAL DATABASES.

ELSEWHERE...

PLEASE, MR. CABRERA, HAVE A SEAT.

CALL ME CARLOS.

TELL ME WHAT I CAN DO TO HELP.

I WANTED OUT OF THE GAME.

I FAKED MY DEATH YEARS AGO, TOOK ON A NEW IDENTITY, BEEN LIVING CLEAN EVER SINCE.

BUT SOMEHOW... SOMEONE FOUND ME. NOW I'M ON THE RUN.

WELL, I NEED TO APOLOGIZE. YOU SEE...

...I'M KIND OF RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU.

WHY?

IT WASN'T PERSONAL.

LET ME SEE IF I CAN EXPLAIN...

Chico's BAIL BONDS

THIS IS THE PLACE?

YEAH, ONLY IT WASN'T ALL BOARDED UP LIKE THIS.

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

I ALREADY KNOW ENOUGH.

TIME TO MAKE LIKE A BANANA AND SPLIT.

GET BACK HERE!

PLEASE, DON'T MAKE ME GO BACK IN THERE, MR. CAGE!

IT'S LIKE PARANORMAL ACTIVITY UP IN THAT MUG!

AIN'T THIS BREAKIN' AND ENTERIN'?

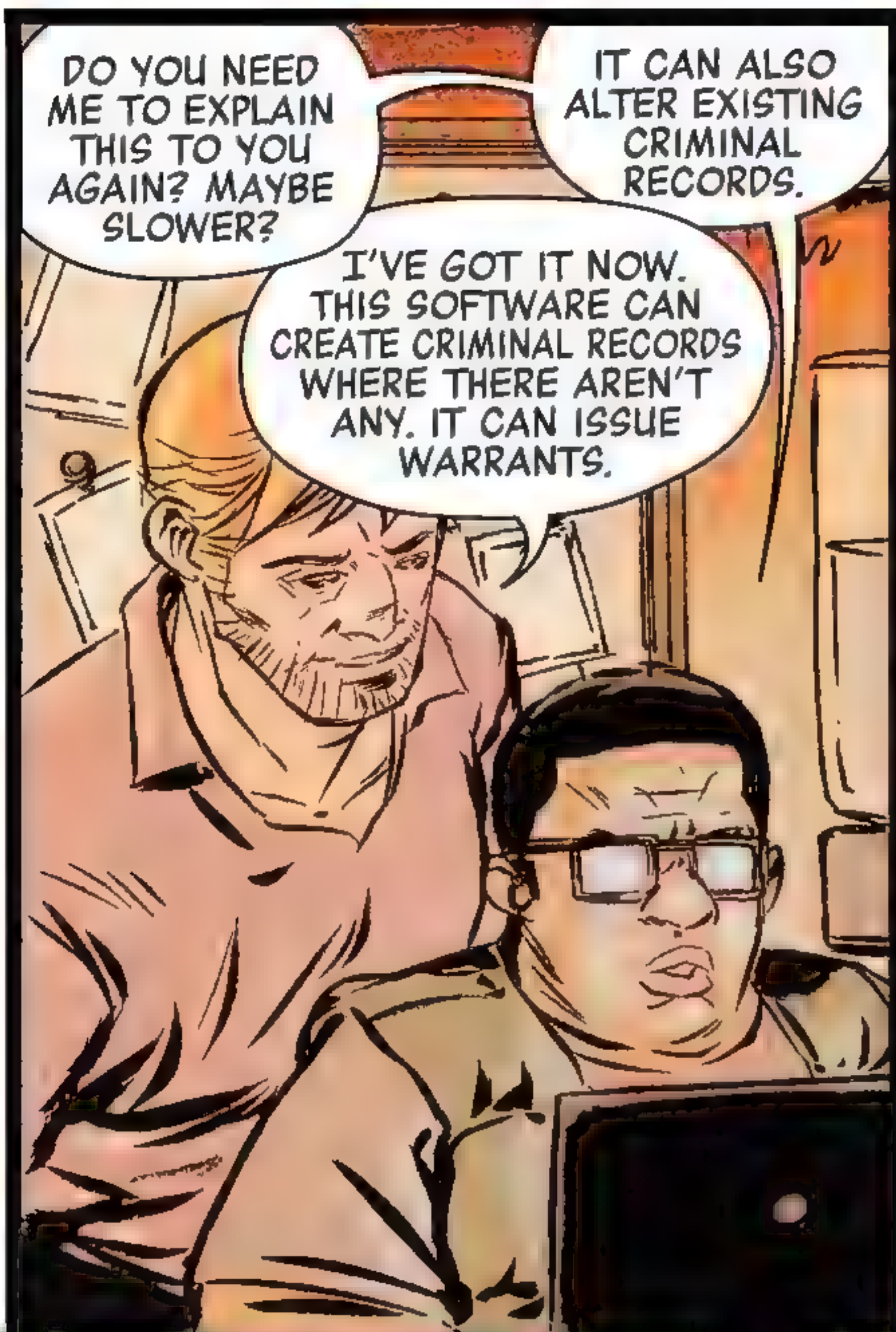
I'M AN AVENGER.

WAS IT LIKE THIS BEFORE-- THE MESS?

NO.

WHOEVER DID THIS PROBABLY TOOK ANYTHING INCRIMINATING...

...BUT LET'S GATHER UP EVERYTHING ANYWAY.



DO YOU NEED ME TO EXPLAIN THIS TO YOU AGAIN? MAYBE SLOWER?

IT CAN ALSO ALTER EXISTING CRIMINAL RECORDS.

I'VE GOT IT NOW. THIS SOFTWARE CAN CREATE CRIMINAL RECORDS WHERE THERE AREN'T ANY. IT CAN ISSUE WARRANTS.



SO... SOMEONE CREATES THIS SOFTWARE, AND A GROUP OF IDIOTS DRESSED IN COSTUMES WERE USING IT TO ARREST INNOCENT PEOPLE.

THERE'S A PIECE MISSING TO THIS PUZZLE. I MEAN...



...WHO ARE THESE GUYS, AND HOW DO THEY FIT INTO ALL OF THIS?

MR. CAGE IDENTIFIED ONE AS AN EX-COP, NOW A BOUNTY HUNTER FOR A BAIL BOND COMPANY.

NOT TO BE RUDE... BUT THESE GUYS DON'T LOOK SMART ENOUGH TO *USE* SOFTWARE THIS SOPHISTICATED-- LET ALONE DESIGN IT.



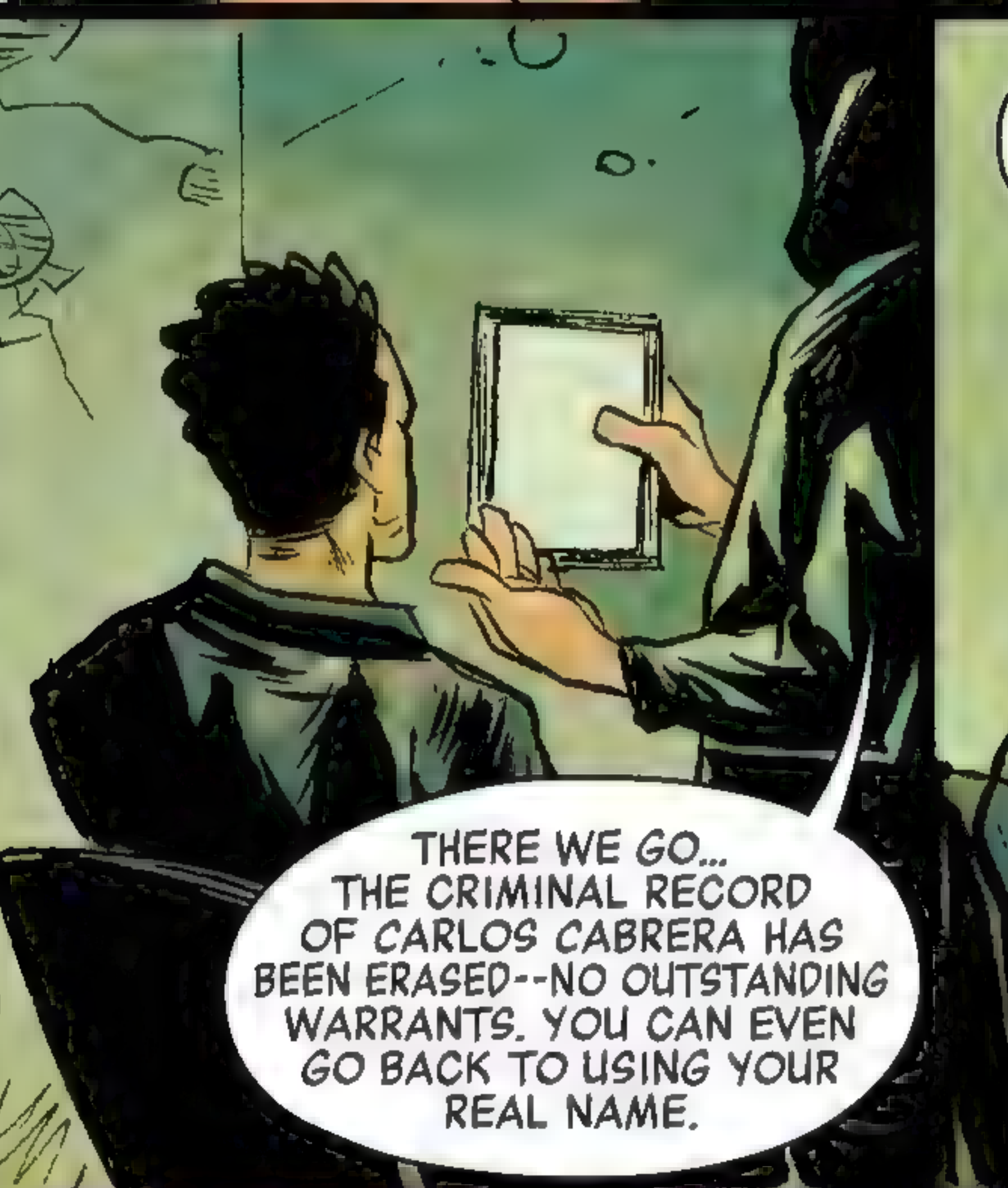
THAT'S IT!

THEY DIDN'T CREATE IT. THEY WERE TESTING IT FOR WHOEVER CREATED IT. MAKING SURE IT WORKED PROPERLY.

MR. RAND...



...LOOK AT THIS. SOMEONE IS USING THE AGNITUS RIGHT NOW.



THERE WE GO... THE CRIMINAL RECORD OF CARLOS CABRERA HAS BEEN ERASED--NO OUTSTANDING WARRANTS. YOU CAN EVEN GO BACK TO USING YOUR REAL NAME.



JUST LIKE THAT?

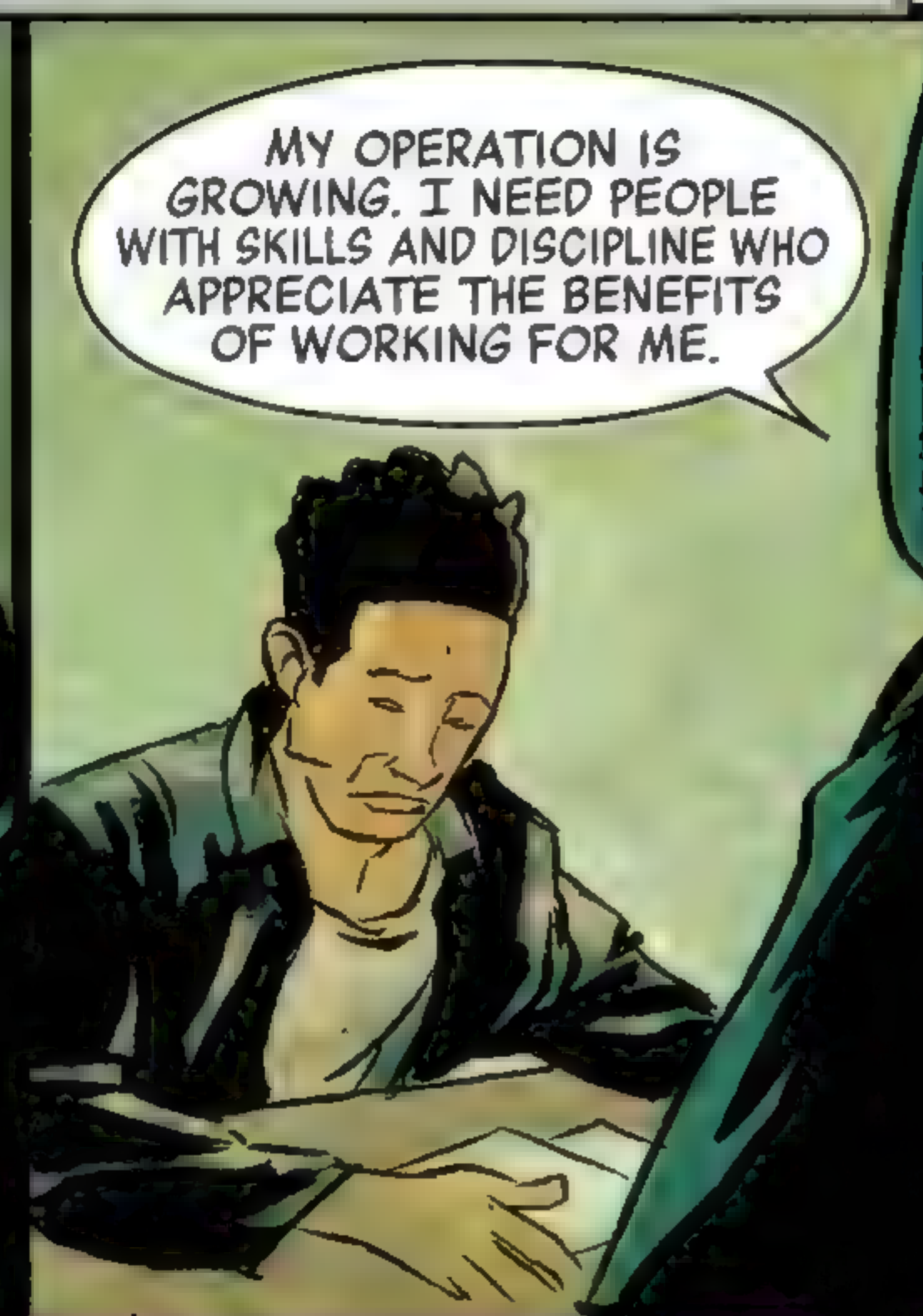
AND AN APOLOGY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE I CAUSED YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTER.



AND SO NOW WHAT? I OWE YOU?

NO, YOU DON'T OWE ME.

BUT I COULD TOTALLY USE SOMEONE LIKE YOU.



MY OPERATION IS GROWING. I NEED PEOPLE WITH SKILLS AND DISCIPLINE WHO APPRECIATE THE BENEFITS OF WORKING FOR ME.



OKAY.

I CAN GET DOWN WITH THIS PROGRAM.

YOU GOT A NAME FOR THIS CREW?



THE NEW PRIDE.

THAT'S TOTALLY BADASS, DON'T YOU THINK?



KNOW SOMEONE WOULD FINALLY SHOW UP.

IT'S ABOUT DAMN TIME.



...YOU GONNA HELP ME LOOK FOR CLUES?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR.

YOU DON'T KNOW THEY'RE CLUES UNTIL YOU STUDY 'EM.

GATHER UP WHAT APPEARS TO BE TRASH, STUDY IT, DETERMINE IF THE TRASH CONTAINS USABLE INFORMATION COMMONLY KNOWN AS CLUES.

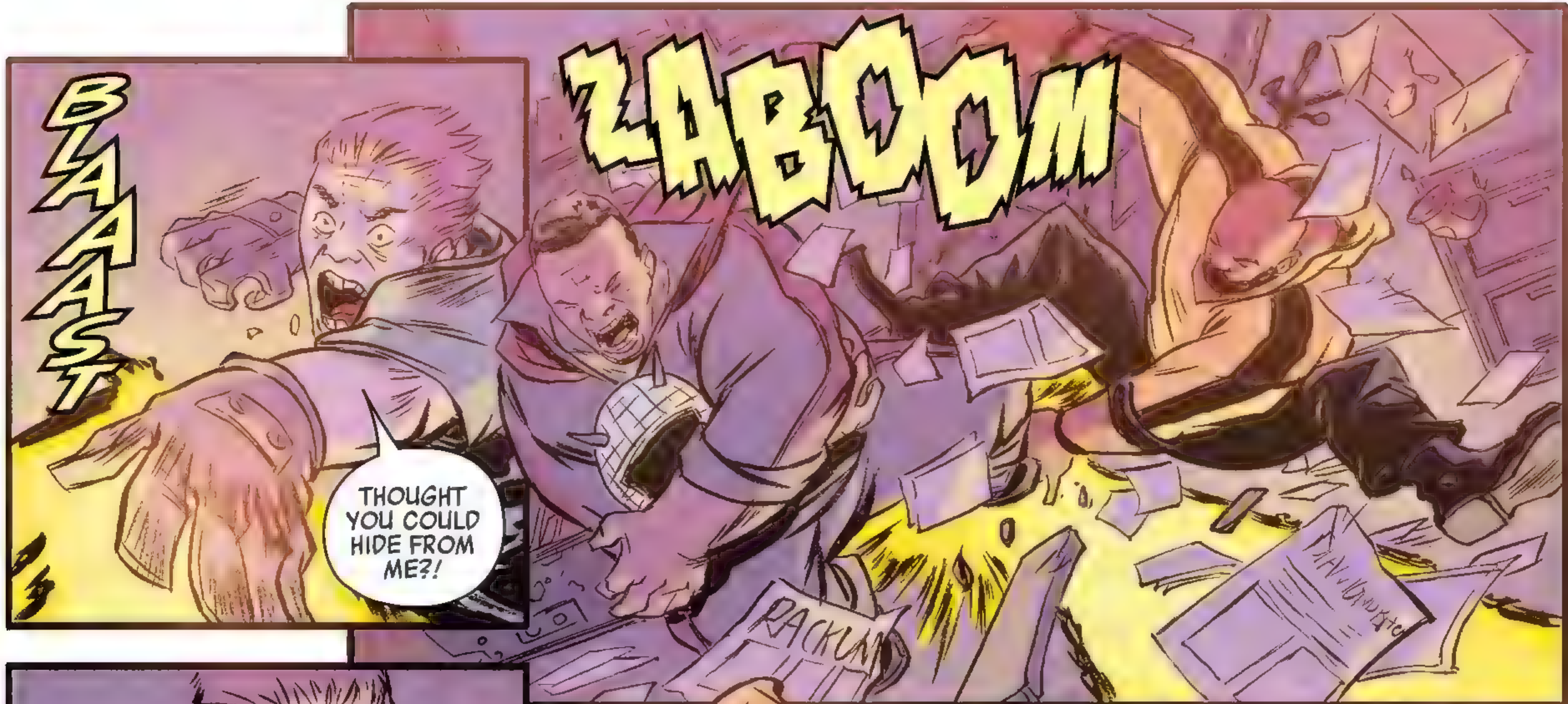


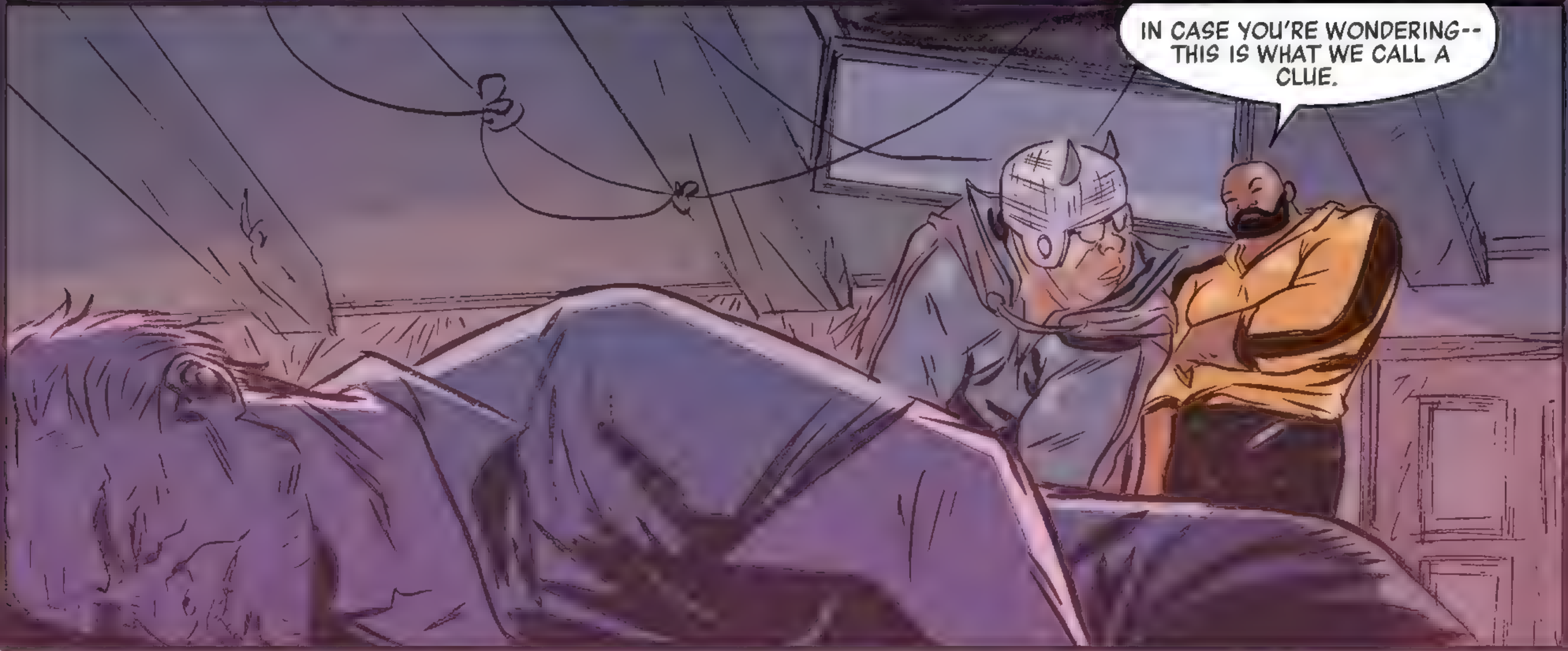
THESE JOKERS WILL BE SORRY THEY EVER MESSED WITH *BLAST-HANDS*.



...DON'T APPRECIATE YOUR TONE, CAGE--

BEHIND YOU! LOOK OUT!





LATER.

FIRST OFF, LET ME SAY THAT PIRANHA IS MY BOY-- BUT HE AIN'T GOT MUCH BY WAY OF BRAINS OR VISION...

...AND THAT'LL GET YOU KILLED.

WHICH LEADS TO NUMBER TWO-- CORNELL AIN'T ESCAPED FROM PRISON JUST TO GET KILLED.

THIRD, BECAUSE I ESCAPED, I'M ON THE RUN. CORNELL AIN'T GOT BUT SO MANY PLACES HE CAN HIDE, AND LET'S BE HONEST...

...HIDIN' AIN'T NO WAY TO BE LIVIN'. MIGHT AS WELL BE BACK IN THE JOINT.

FROM WHAT I HEAR TELL ON THE STREETS, WHAT YOU OFFERIN' IS THE BEST DEAL GOIN'.

SUPPOSE I COULD WARN TOMBSTONE-- BUT I KNOW HE RATTED ME OUT.

DON'T TRUST HIM-- AND SHO 'NUFF DON'T TRUST THAT FREAK, MR. FISH.

THAT DON'T LEAVE CORNELL WITH MANY OPTIONS.

NO, I DON'T SUPPOSE IT DOES.

SO, LET'S SAY I DO THAT LITTLE THING I DO-- WHICH, BY THE WAY, I CAN TOTALLY DO-- AND I ERASE YOUR CRIMINAL RECORD.

YOU GET A NEW START. WHAT DO I GET?

EVERYBODY'S LOOKIN' FOR POWER. BLACK CAT THINKS RIPPIN' OFF TOMBSTONE WILL GIVE HER POWER.

BUT STEALING MONEY FROM LONNIE LINCOLN? THAT AIN'T A REAL POWER MOVE-- THAT'S JUST A WAY TO GET HIM PISSED OFF.

A REAL POWER MOVE IS **KILLIN'** HIS ALBINO ASS.

AND THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO FOR YOU.

WOW. YOU'RE
WILLING TO KILL
TOMBSTONE?

THAT'S
TOTALLY AWESOME.
BUT HERE'S THE
THING...

...KILLING
YOUR ENEMIES IS
OLD SCHOOL.

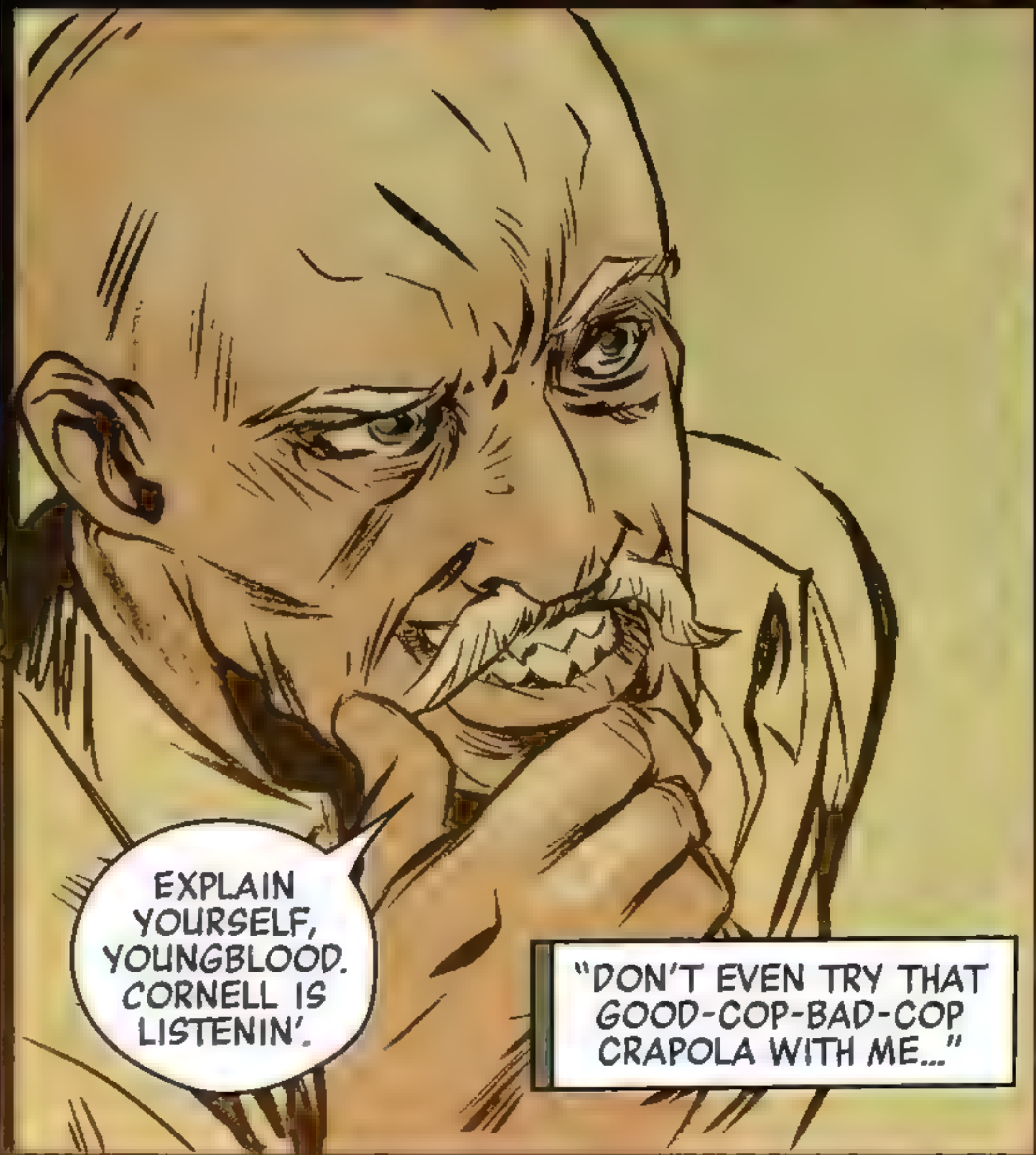
DROPPING
BODIES IS JUST AN
INVITATION FOR TROUBLE.
DEAD BODIES AND UNPAID
TAXES ARE THE TWO BEST
WAYS TO END UP IN
PRISON.



AND TRUST
ME WHEN I SAY
THAT I KNOW FROM
EXPERIENCE, THERE ARE
FATES **TOTALLY** WORSE
THAN DEATH.

EXPLAIN
YOURSELF,
YOUNGBLOOD.
CORNELL IS
LISTENIN'.

"DON'T EVEN TRY THAT
GOOD-COP-BAD-COP
CRAPOLA WITH ME..."





...CAUSE IT
DON'T INTIMIDATE
ME. I USED TO **BE** A
COP--I KNOW HOW
THIS STUFF
WORKS.

BESIDES,
I GOT
RIGHTS!

I DON'T
EVEN KNOW WHERE
TO START WITH YOU,
HANK--BUT I'LL
START WITH
THIS...



...THERE'S NO
GOOD-COP-BAD-COP
HERE--SO GET THAT
CONCEPT OUT OF
YOUR MIND.

AND AS
FAR AS YOU HAVING
RIGHTS...LUKE, YOU
TELL HIM.

THIS
BASEMENT
IS PART OF THE
SOVEREIGN NATION OF
FOOT-TO-ASS, WHERE
YOU HAVE NO
RIGHTS.

YOU
GUYS AIN'T
GONNA DO ANYTHING
TO ME. YOU'RE
AVENGERS!

YOU'RE
RIGHT,
HANK...

...WE
WON'T
DO ANYTHING
TO YOU.
BUT...



...I CAN'T
SPEAK FOR MY
FRIENDS.



I'M PRETTY SURE YOU KNOW EVERYONE, SO WE'LL SKIP THE INTRODUCTIONS.

NOW, TELL US EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS, OR ME AND LUKE WILL LEAVE YOU ALONE WITH THESE GUYS.



I...
I...



WHY DID YOU TRY TO RUIN MY LIFE?



I...
THOUGHT WE WERE DOING THE RIGHT THING.

IF I HAD KNOWN WHAT WE WERE REALLY DOING... WHO WE WERE REALLY WORKING FOR...

OH, GOD. I'M SO SORRY.

SORRY ISN'T ENOUGH. TELL US EVERYTHING.

THEN WE START CLEANING UP THE MESS YOU MADE.

TOMBSTONE'S PLACE.
(CURRENTLY BEING RENOVATED.)

WHAT?!

THIS BETTER
BE SOME KIND
OF JOKE...

"...WHO THE HELL
HAS THE GUTS TO
RIP ME OFF?!"

"IT'S LIKE
I TOLD YOU,
LONNIE..."

...YOU BEEN
SLIPPIN'. AFTER
MARIAH MADE YOU LOOK LIKE
A FOOL, PEOPLE QUESTIONIN'
IF YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES
TO RUN THE RACE!

CHECK
YOURSELF, MORT.
I DEALT WITH
THAT FAT COW,
MARIAH!

NO,
POWER MAN
AND **IRON FIST**
DEALT WITH
HER...

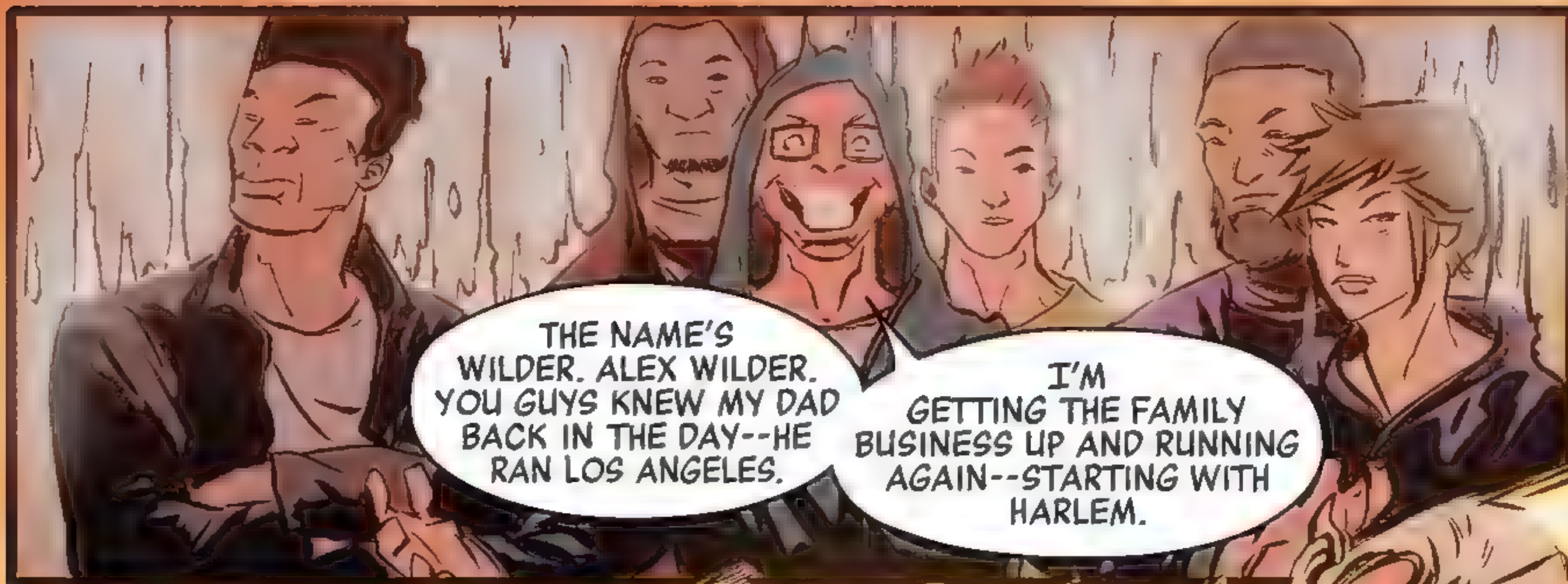
...YOU LOOKED LIKE
A SOFT-ASS PUNK
THAT GOT TOOK BY
BLACK MARIAH. SAY THAT
\$%&# OVER AND OVER
AGAIN UNTIL YOU
REALIZE WHAT
THAT MEANS.

DON'T YOU
EVER--

THE TWO
OF YOU DONE?
BECAUSE THIS IS
TOTALLY
BORING.

WHO
THE HELL ARE
YOU?

AND HOW
DID YOU GET IN
HERE?!



THE NAME'S WILDER. ALEX WILDER. YOU GUYS KNEW MY DAD BACK IN THE DAY--HE RAN LOS ANGELES.

I'M GETTING THE FAMILY BUSINESS UP AND RUNNING AGAIN--STARTING WITH HARLEM.

ZAAAP

TOTALLY DON'T NEED YOU FOR THAT, MR. FISH--SO IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE A LITTLE TRIP.

AIIEE!

@\$%#E!

...BECAUSE I TOTALLY HAVE SKILLS.

DON'T BE FOOLED BY MY SIZE...

OOOF!

IMPRESSED?

THWUMP

BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET!



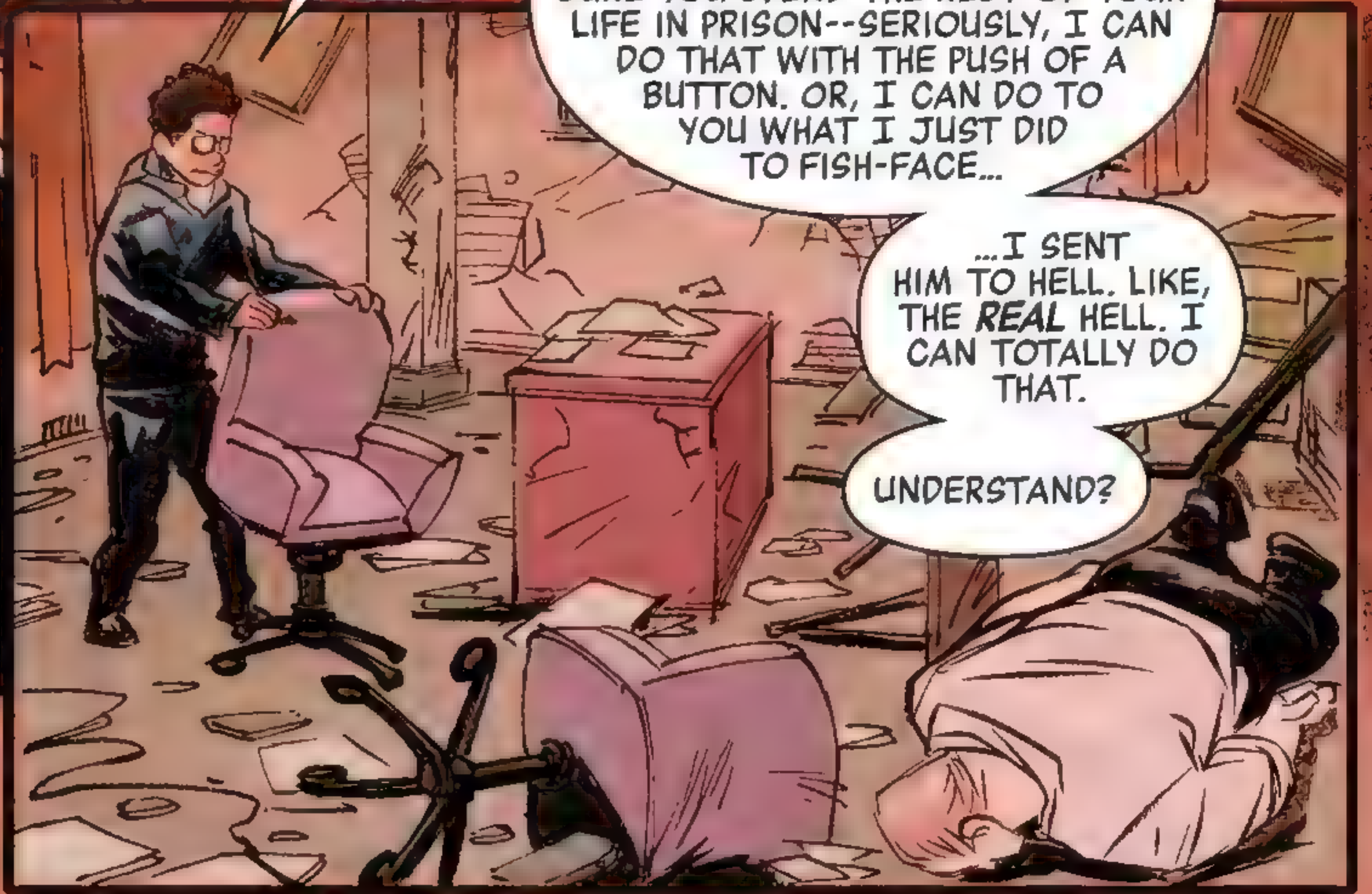
DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHOEVER RIPPED OFF YOUR ARMORED CAR, LONNIE. I'LL TOTALLY TAKE CARE OF THEM.

BESIDES, IT'S ALL MINE NOW--EVERYTHING YOU HAVE. THIS IS A HOSTILE TAKEOVER.

THERE ARE FOUR OPTIONS. FIRST, YOU GIVE IT ALL UP PEACEFULLY. SECOND, I KILL YOU--WHICH I DON'T LIKE DOING. THIRD, I MAKE SURE YOU SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN PRISON--SERIOUSLY, I CAN DO THAT WITH THE PUSH OF A BUTTON. OR, I CAN DO TO YOU WHAT I JUST DID TO FISH-FACE...

...I SENT HIM TO HELL. LIKE, THE *REAL* HELL. I CAN TOTALLY DO THAT.

UNDERSTAND?



DAMN, IT FEELS GOOD TO BE A GANGSTA.



TO BE CONTINUED...

**THE STORY
CONTINUES IN
POWER MAN
& IRON FIST #12!**



**AND DON'T MISS THE
POWER MAN & IRON FIST
SWEET CHRISTMAS ANNUAL**

WRITE TO US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM AND MARK IT "OK TO PRINT."

MARVEL

012

WALKER

GREENE

LOUGHRIDGE

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST



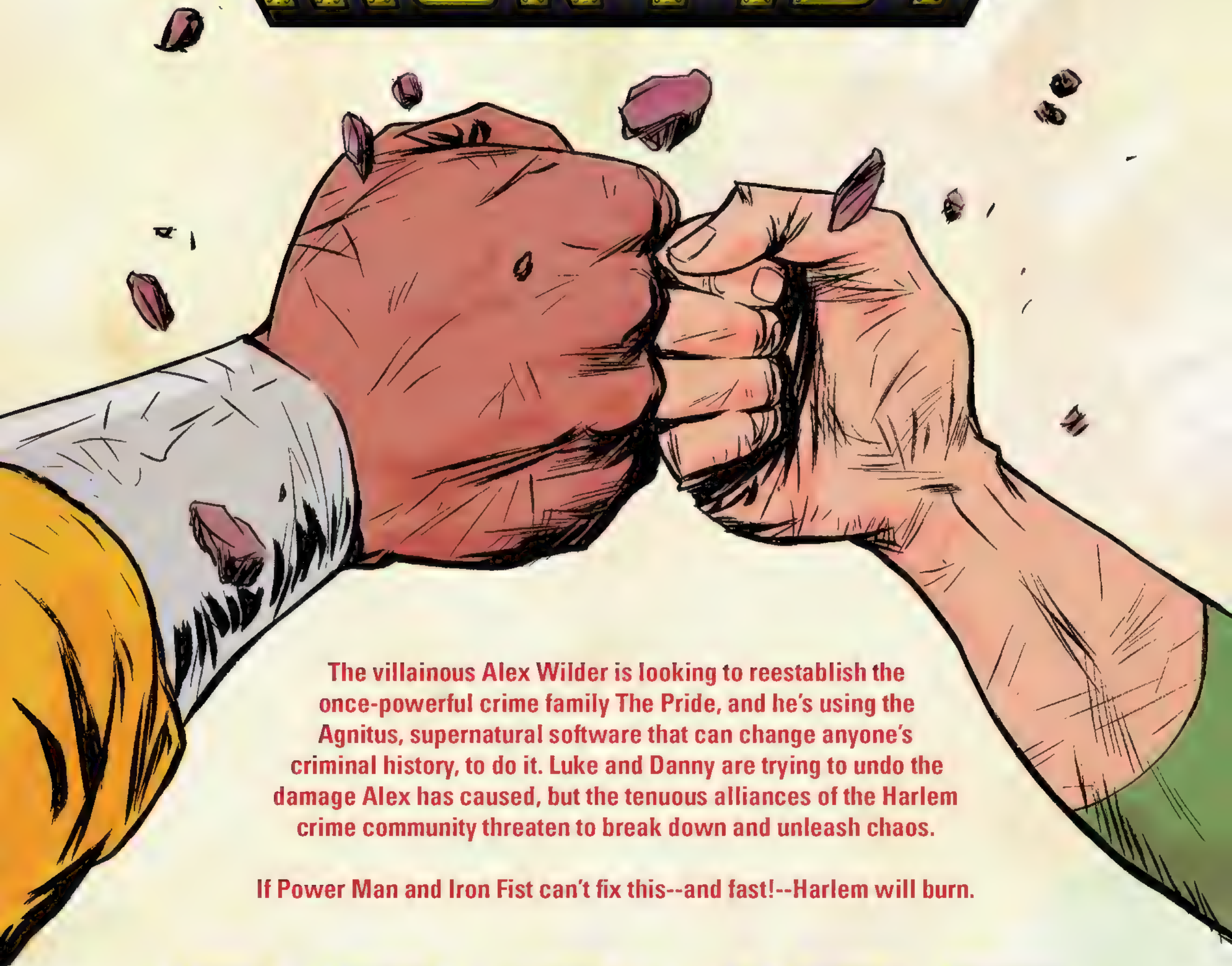
HARLEY-BROS!

Orphan Daniel Rand earned the power of the Iron Fist in the mystical city of K'un Lun. As an adult, Danny oversees the Rand Corporation and moonlights as Iron Fist: kung fu defender of the innocent.

Prisoner Luke Cage was subjected to experiments that gave him superhuman strength and durability. As Power Man, he's been a hero and an Avenger, and now a husband and father.

After years apart, they're back together as Heroes for Hire.

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST



The villainous Alex Wilder is looking to reestablish the once-powerful crime family The Pride, and he's using the Agnitius, supernatural software that can change anyone's criminal history, to do it. Luke and Danny are trying to undo the damage Alex has caused, but the tenuous alliances of the Harlem crime community threaten to break down and unleash chaos.

If Power Man and Iron Fist can't fix this--and fast!--Harlem will burn.

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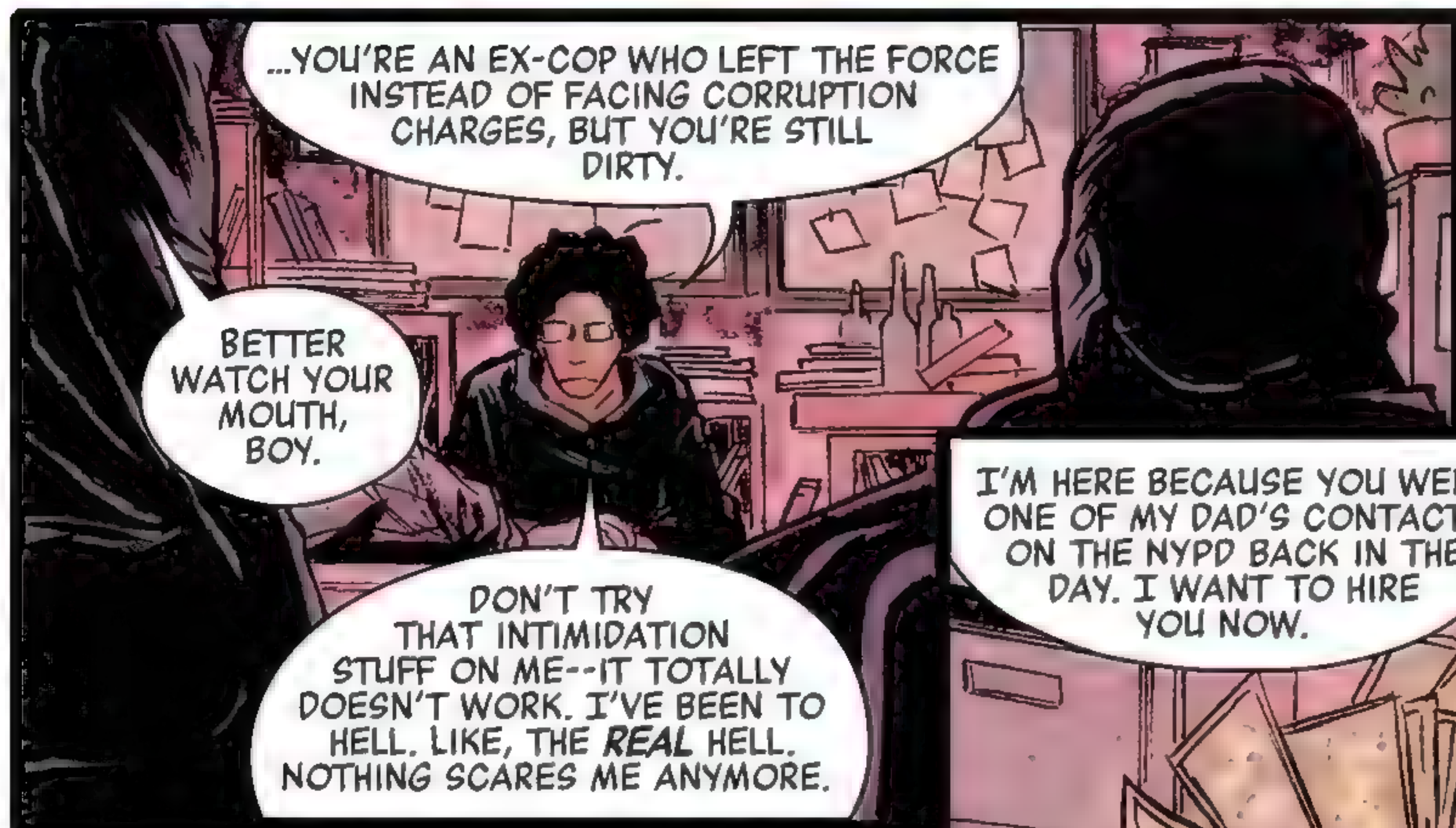
ALAN FINE
exec. producer



SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE, WALKING IN HERE AND TALKING TO ME THIS WAY, BUT CLEARLY YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM.

OH, I TOTALLY KNOW WHO YOU ARE...



...YOU'RE AN EX-COP WHO LEFT THE FORCE INSTEAD OF FACING CORRUPTION CHARGES, BUT YOU'RE STILL DIRTY.

BETTER WATCH YOUR MOUTH, BOY.

DON'T TRY THAT INTIMIDATION STUFF ON ME--IT TOTALLY DOESN'T WORK. I'VE BEEN TO HELL. LIKE, THE *REAL* HELL. NOTHING SCARES ME ANYMORE.

I'M HERE BECAUSE YOU WERE ONE OF MY DAD'S CONTACTS ON THE NYPD BACK IN THE DAY. I WANT TO HIRE YOU NOW.

YOU WANT TO SIT THERE TALKING BIG, I CAN TAKE MY BUSINESS--AND MY MONEY--SOMEPLACE ELSE.



DAMN KID, YOU'RE AS ARROGANT AS YOUR FATHER.

WHATTA YOU WANT FROM ME?

I'VE GOT A BUSINESS PROPOSITION FOR YOU.

I NEED SOMEONE TO BETA TEST THIS FOR ME--IT'S A BIT OF HARDWARE I DESIGNED, RUNNING A COMPLICATED PIECE OF SOFTWARE.

I NEED SOMEONE TO MAKE SURE IT WORKS, AND WITH YOUR CONNECTIONS TO THE POLICE, AND YOUR NEW CAREER IN BAIL BONDS AND BOUNTY HUNTING, YOU'RE THE GUY FOR THE JOB.

AND IF I SAY NO?

MAYBE I WASN'T CLEAR...

YOU TOTALLY DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.



ONE WEEK
AGO.

...I SWEAR,
THAT'S ALL I
KNOW. THIS GUY--A KID,
REALLY--HE GAVE US
THIS GIZMO.

THE
AGNITUS.

YEAH, THAT'S
IT. HE GAVE IT TO
US...TO TEST IT
OUT.

TEST IT
OUT?

THE KID--
HIS NAME IS
ALVIN OR ALEX,
OR SOMETHING LIKE
THAT--HE WANTED
US TO MAKE SURE
THE AGNITUS
WORKED.

WE USED
IT TO IDENTIFY
KNOWN FELONS
WITH PAST RECORDS,
OUTSTANDING
WARRANTS...
BUT...

...WE ALSO
USED IT TO
CREATE WARRANTS
AND RECORDS FOR
PEOPLE WHO WERE
INNOCENT.

INNOCENT
PEOPLE LIKE
ME?

YOU ALMOST
DESTROYED MY
LIFE!!!

ALMOST
DESTROYED IT,
KEITH. ALMOST.
YOU GOOD
NOW.

WHAT...
WHAT'RE
YOU GONNA
DO WITH
ME?

GOOD
QUESTION.

WE FIGURE
OUT WHICH BRANCH OF
LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN BE
TRUSTED, AND TURN YOU OVER
TO THEM. THEN WE GO
TO WORK.

WORK?

YEAH, HE
BUSTS HEADS
AND I KICK
ASS.

WAIT,
I THOUGHT I KICKED
ASS AND YOU BUSTED
HEADS.

I STAND
CORRECTED.

FIVE DAYS AGO.



...HEARD ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED TO
YOU, DIDN'T BELIEVE
IT WAS TRUE.

BUT
SITTING
ACROSS FROM
YOU--LOOKING
AT YOU...

WHAT WE
WANT TO KNOW
IS THIS--WHY'D YOU
REACH OUT
TO US?



TROUBLE IS
COMING, AND YOU
TWO JOKERS STARTED
IT WHEN YOU HELPED BLACK
MARIAH GET HER HANDS ON
THE SUPERSOUL STONE.
THAT MADE ME LOOK
WEAK.

AND NOW
EVERY PLAYER WHO
THINKS THEY HAVE THE
JUICE TO RUN HARLEM IS
MAKING A PLAY TO
TAKE OVER MY
OPERATION.



YOU SET UP
THIS MEETING TO
MAKE US APOLOGIZE FOR
MESSIN' WITH YOUR
GAME?

NO. I
SET UP THIS
MEETING TO
WARN
YOU.

WE ALL
KNOW WHAT
I DO. BUT IN
DOING IT, I BRING
ORDER TO
HARLEM.

SEE, CRIME
AIN'T GOING AWAY--
IT'S ALWAYS GONNA
BE HERE. THE KEY IS
TO MAINTAIN ORDER.
ORDER MINIMIZES THE
COLLATERAL DAMAGE
THAT RIDES THE
WAVE OF
CRIME.

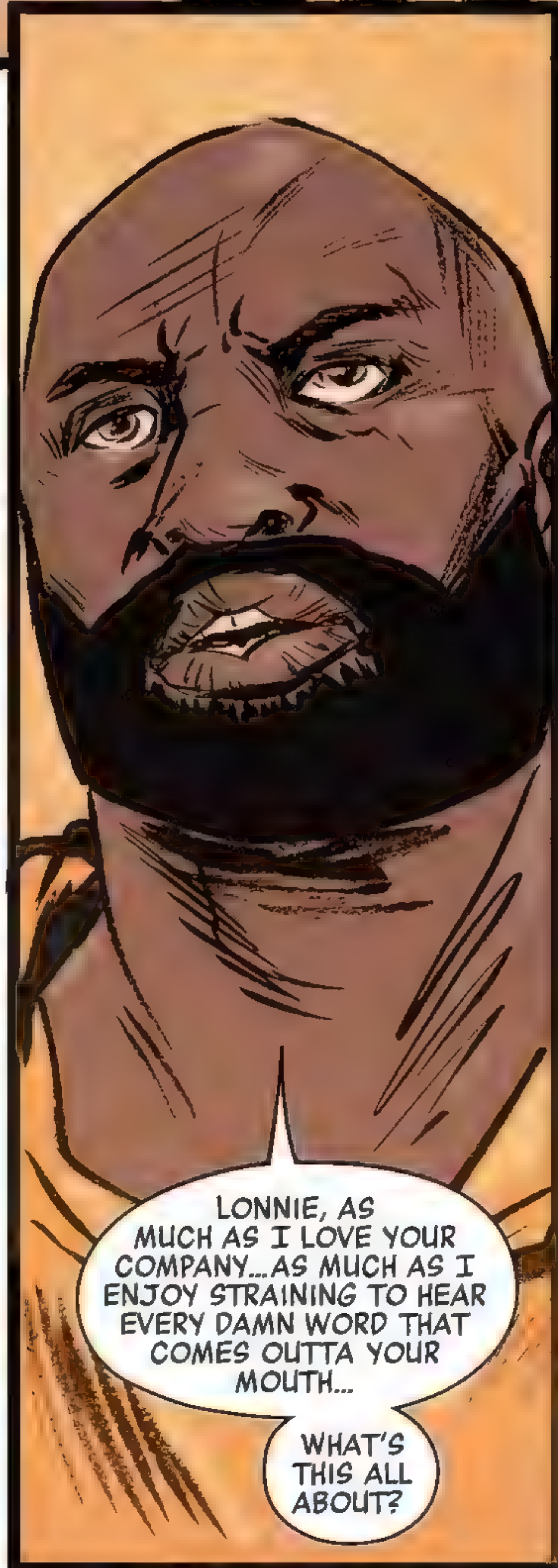
THAT'S REAL
POETIC, LONNIE.
YOU'RE A CHALKY,
UGLY MAYA
ANGELOU.



YOU AIN'T
LISTENING.

WAR HAS COME
TO HARLEM. PIRANHA
JONES HIT ONE OF MY
OPERATIONS. GOTTA GIVE HIM
CREDIT--NEVER THOUGHT
A PUNK LIKE HIM HAD
THE NERVE.

BUT THERE'S
A REASON HE ONLY
CONTROLS A FEW BLOCKS
IN THE BRONX, AND NOTHING
ELSE--HE CAN'T MAINTAIN
ORDER.



LONNIE, AS
MUCH AS I LOVE YOUR
COMPANY...AS MUCH AS I
ENJOY STRAINING TO HEAR
EVERY DAMN WORD THAT
COMES OUTTA YOUR
MOUTH...

WHAT'S
THIS ALL
ABOUT?



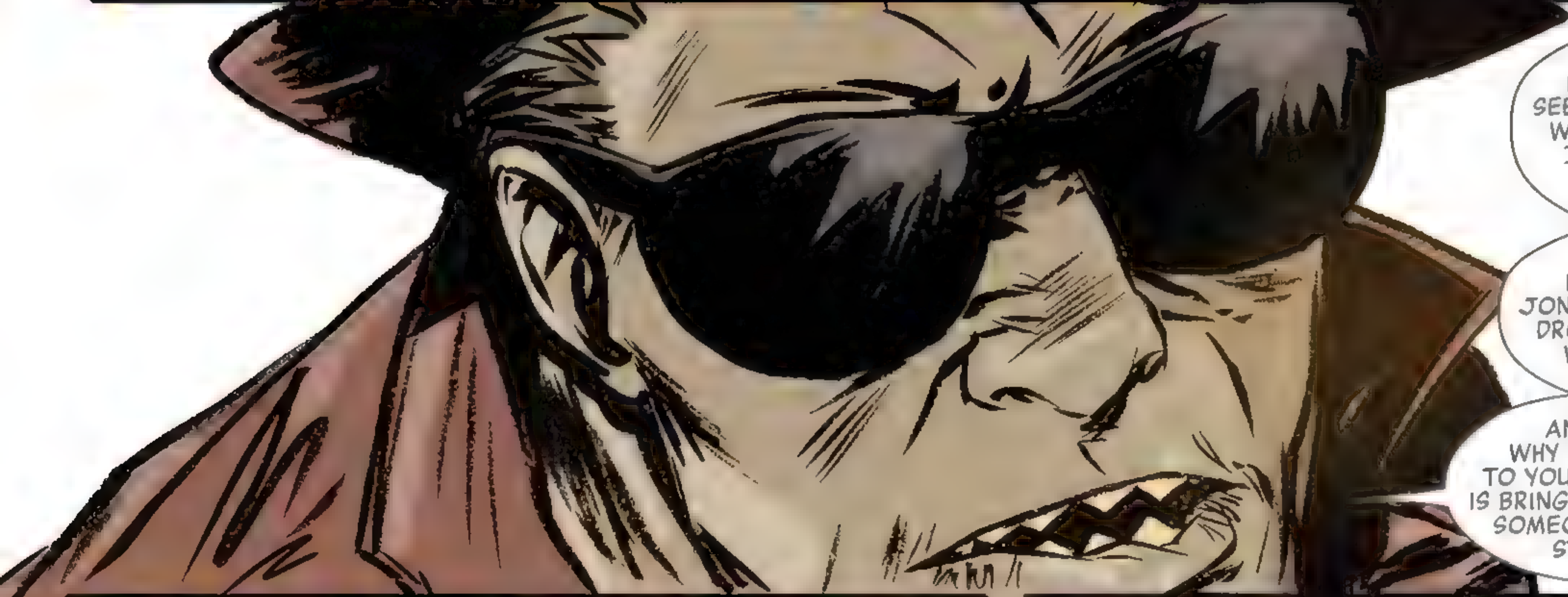
IF IT WAS JUST PIRANHA JONES COMING AT ME, I COULD SQUASH IT, BUT THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE.



SOMEONE ELSE TRYING TO TAKE OVER HARLEM?

WHO?

KID NAMED ALEX WILDER. HIS PARENTS USED TO RUN LOS ANGELES BACK IN THE DAY. RUMOR HAS IT HE KILLED THEM.



THING IS, HE HAS POWER. I'VE SEEN WHAT HE CAN DO WITH MY OWN EYES. I CAN PUT HIM IN CHECK--MY WAY.

BUT BETWEEN HIM AND PIRANHA JONES, BODIES WILL GET DROPPED, AND HARLEM WILL BURN IN THE PROCESS.

AND THAT'S WHY I'M TALKING TO YOU--ALEX WILDER IS BRINGING CHAOS, AND SOMEONE NEEDS TO STOP HIM.



FOUR DAYS AGO.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S NOT WORKING?

MY GUESS IS WHOEVER LUKE CAGE HAD MESSING WITH IT MANAGED TO HACK US, SHUT US DOWN--IT'S TOTALLY USELESS.

YOU CAN'T EVEN USE THIS THING TO BINGE-WATCH NETFLIX.



EVERYTHING WILL BE TOTALLY FINE. SHUTTING DOWN THE SYSTEM DOESN'T MEAN THEY CAN UNDO WHAT I'VE DONE...

YO, CHECK IT, YOUNGBLOOD...

...LOTTA FOLKS
PUT FAITH IN YOU, BASED
ON THE STRENGTH OF THAT
MACHINE YOU HOLDIN' IN
YOUR HANDS. AND NOW
IT DON'T WORK?

WHA'CHU
GOT TO OFFER
IF YOUR TOY
BROKE?

WATCH
YOUR TONE,
CORNELL.

IT'S OKAY,
MARIAH. THE MAN
WANTS TO KNOW
WHAT I HAVE TO
OFFER...

WELL, FOR
STARTERS, YOU'RE
ALL TOTALLY FREE--
YOUR CRIMINAL RECORDS
ERASED. SO, YOU
KNOW, THERE'S
THAT.

NO DOUBT. MUCH
APPRECIATED...

...BUT YOU'VE
GOT **POWER**
MAN AND **IRON FIST**
SNOOPING AROUND FOR
WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE
FOR THAT GIZMO OF
YOURS. THAT MEANS
TROUBLE.

AND IT AIN'T
JUST YOU MAKING
A MOVE ON LONNIE'S
OPERATION--**PIRANHA**
JONES AND **BLACK CAT**
GOT THEIR EYES ON
THAT SAME PRIZE.
TROUBLE.

YOU
STARTED
A WAR WITH
TOMBSTONE.
MORE
TROUBLE.

AND
YOUR SECRET
WEAPON DON'T
WORK NO MORE,
YOUNGBLOOD.

FIRST,
MY NAME IS
ALEX. MR. WILDER,
IF YOU'RE
NASTY.

SECOND,
THE AGNITUS WAS
PLAN A. A FOR AGNITUS.
IT TOTALLY WORKED FOR A
TIME--LONG ENOUGH FOR
ME TO GATHER A CREW
AND RATTLE
TOMBSTONE.

WORD IS,
TOMBSTONE IS
CIRCLING HIS WAGONS--
HUNKERING DOWN IN A
SINGLE LOCATION FOR
THE BATTLE TO
COME.

NOW, EVEN
THOUGH I'D RATHER
AVOID IT, WE MOVE
ON TO PLAN B...

PLAN B?

B FOR
BULLETS,
BLOOD,
AND **BODY**
COUNT.

TWO DAYS AGO.

IT'S ALL FALLING APART. WE AIN'T GOT THE FORCES WE NEED TO FIGHT THIS WAR--NOT ON TWO FRONTS.

TAKING ON TOMBSTONE WAS ONE THING, BUT THIS NEW PLAYER--WHOEVER HE IS-- HE'S GOT EVERYONE WORKING FOR HIM.

COTTONMOUTH IS WITH HIM, BLACK MARIAH AND AT LEAST A HALF DOZEN OTHERS.

DON'T GIVE UP SO EASY, RAYMOND. SURE, WE'RE FACING DIFFICULT ODDS...

...FIGHTING TWO BATTLES AT THE SAME TIME, BUT WE'VE GOT TOMBSTONE ON THE ROPES. NO ONE HAS SEEN HIM IN MORE THAN A WEEK.

AND YOU'RE SMARTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE--WITH ME BACKING YOU UP. I BELIEVE IN YOU, PIRANHA. IT'S TIME TO FINISH WHAT WE STARTED.

I DON'T THINK IT'S GONNA BE THAT EASY. TOMBSTONE MAY HAVE GONE INTO HIDING, BUT HIS BOYS ARE STILL HOLDING IT DOWN...

...AND THIS OTHER CREW--THEY'S FIERCE. MUSCLE, FIREPOWER, AND VODOO.

RAYMOND, THESE BOXES REPRESENT THE GREENLEE HOUSING PROJECTS--THIS CENTER BOX IS ONE OF TOMBSTONE'S MAIN BASES OF OPERATION.

MY SOURCES SAY HE'S CONSOLIDATING EVERYTHING TO ONE LOCATION, TO BETTER PROTECT HIS OPERATION.

WE TAKE THIS BUILDING, AND TOMBSTONE WON'T RECOVER.

YOU JUST NEED TO GATHER UP A CREW, PULL A HOSTILE TAKEOVER, AND HIS ENTIRE OPERATION IN HARLEM BELONGS TO US.

I JUST NEED TO GATHER UP A CREW AND MAKE THE MOVE.

I CAN DO THAT.

YEAH, I CAN DO THAT.

ONE HOUR AGO.



WE
CAN DO
THIS.

WE ROLL IN
AND WE TAKE THIS
JOINT WITH EXTREME
PREJUDICE. YOU FEEL ME?

55 MINUTES
AGO.



Y'ALL KNOW
WHAT THE BOSS
WANTS...

...PIRANHA AND
HIS CREW OUT OF
THE PICTURE, AND THIS
WHOLE JOINT UNDER
OUR CONTROL.

35 MINUTES
AGO.



IT'S GOIN'
DOWN, BOSS--
COTTONMOUTH IS
ALREADY THERE WITH A
CREW, AND PIRANHA JONES
IS MAKIN' HIS MOVE. ALL
HELL'S BREAKIN' LOOSE.
WANT ME TO GIVE
THE WORD?

CAGE AND
THE KUNG FU
KID THERE
YET?

NO.

WAIT UNTIL
THEY SHOW UP.
WHY KILL ONE OR
TWO ENEMIES WHEN
YOU CAN KILL 'EM ALL?

FIVE SECONDS
AGO.



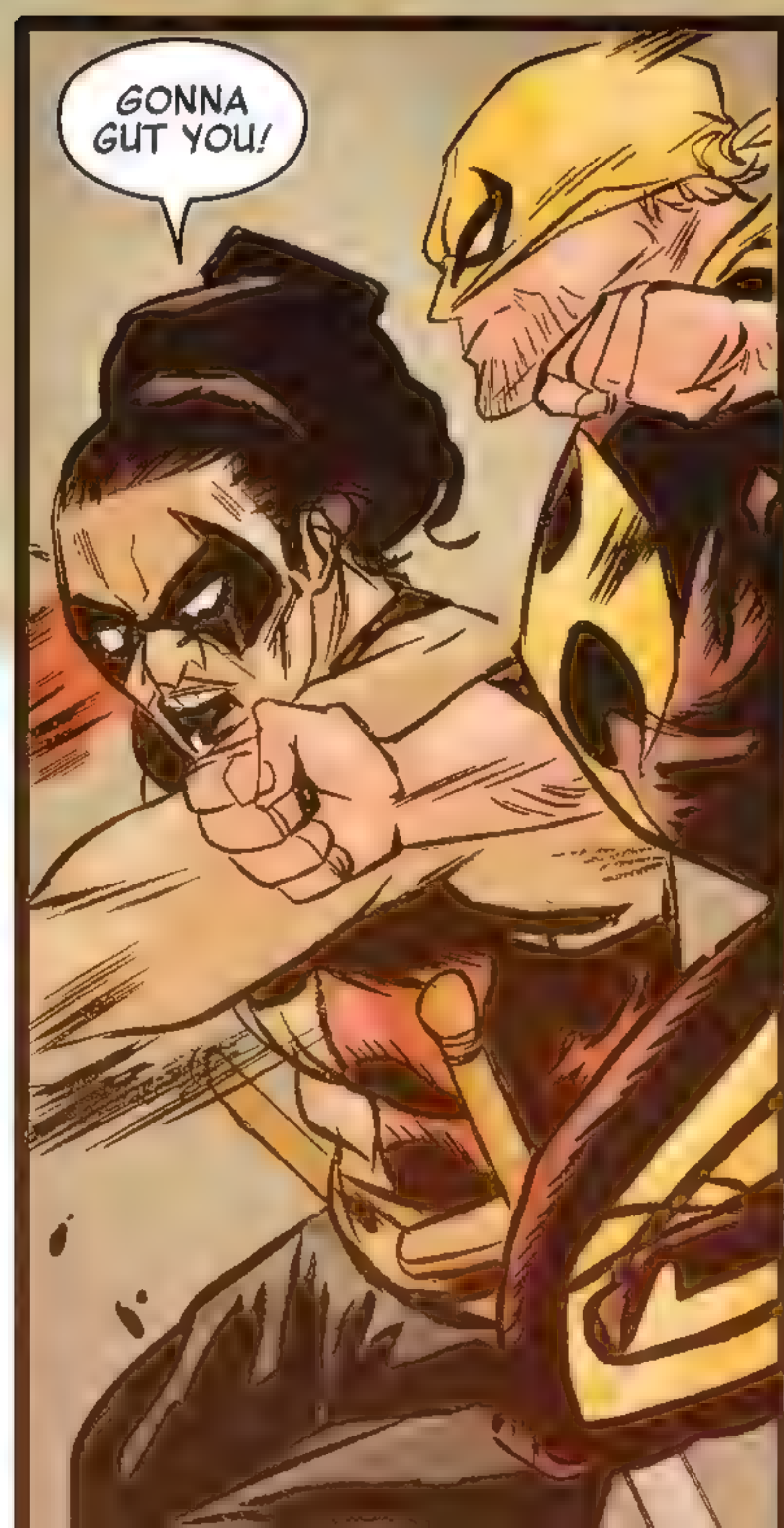
BAD
IDEA.

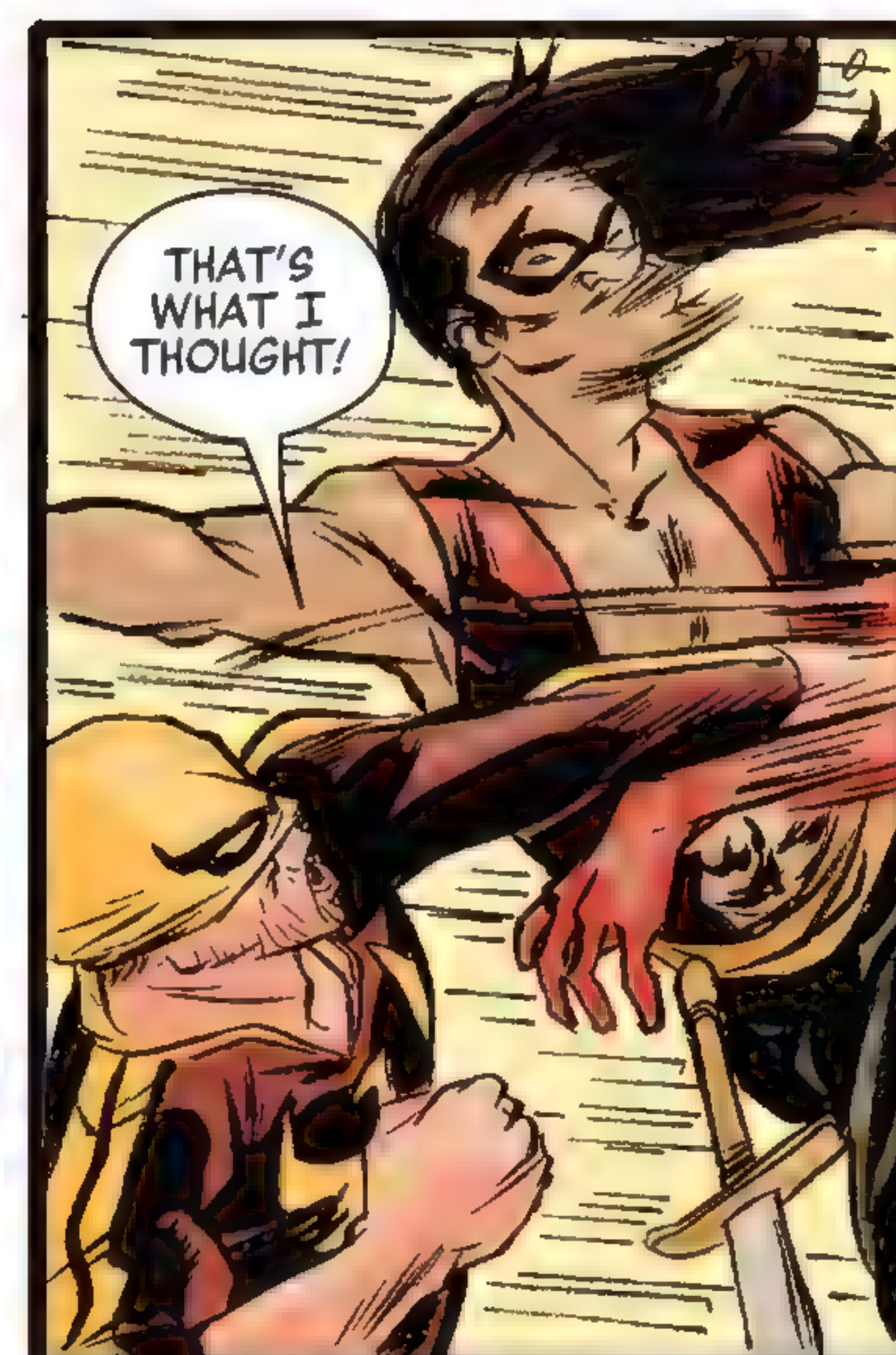
VERY BAD
IDEA.

NO
BACKING OUT
NOW.

IF
THAT'S THE
CASE...

NOW.







WE GOTTA
GET OUTTA
HERE.



...THAT
ALBINO PUNK
SET US UP.



I'VE GOT TO
BE TOTALLY HONEST--
I EXPECTED TOMBSTONE
TO PUT UP MORE OF
A FIGHT.

AFTER
SEEING WHAT
YOU COULD DO,
A-WILD--MAYBE HE
FIGURED IT WAS
BEST TO CUT
AND RUN.



STILL, SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT. THIS IS
WHERE TOMBSTONE IS SUPPOSE TO HAVE
WRANGLER ALL OF HIS OPERATION,
TO BETTER PROTECT...

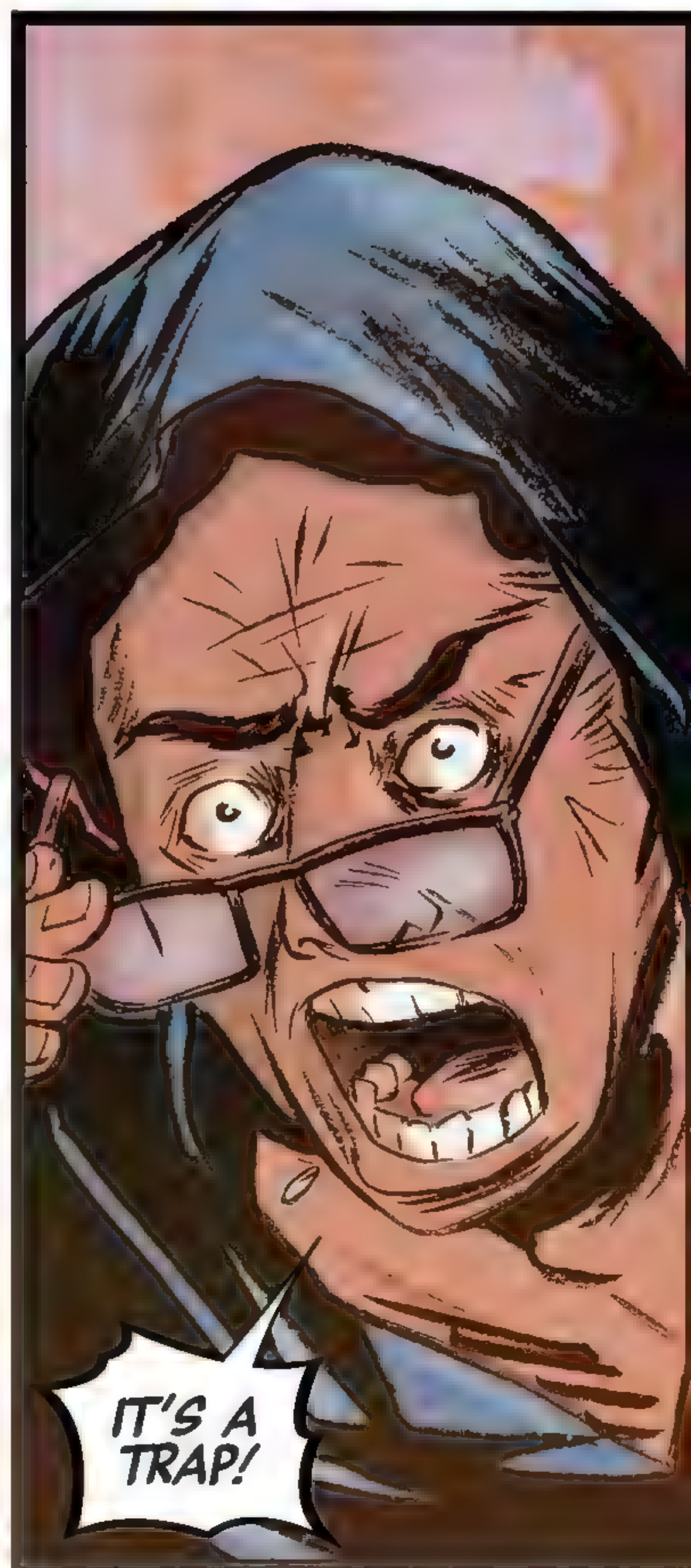
OH, NO.

WHAT?

LOOK.
SOMEONE'S
RUNNIN'
OUTTA THE
BUILDING.

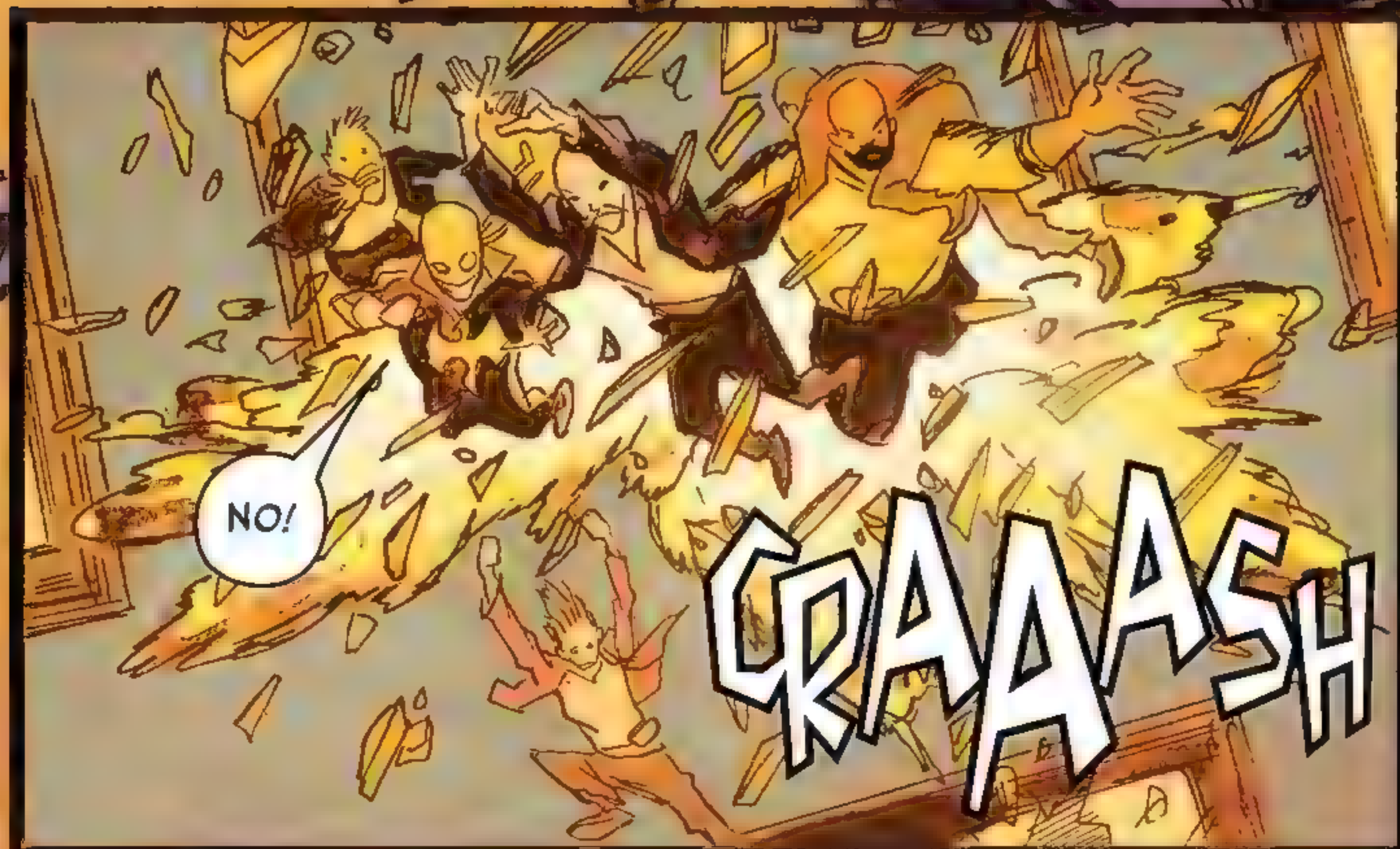


RUN!



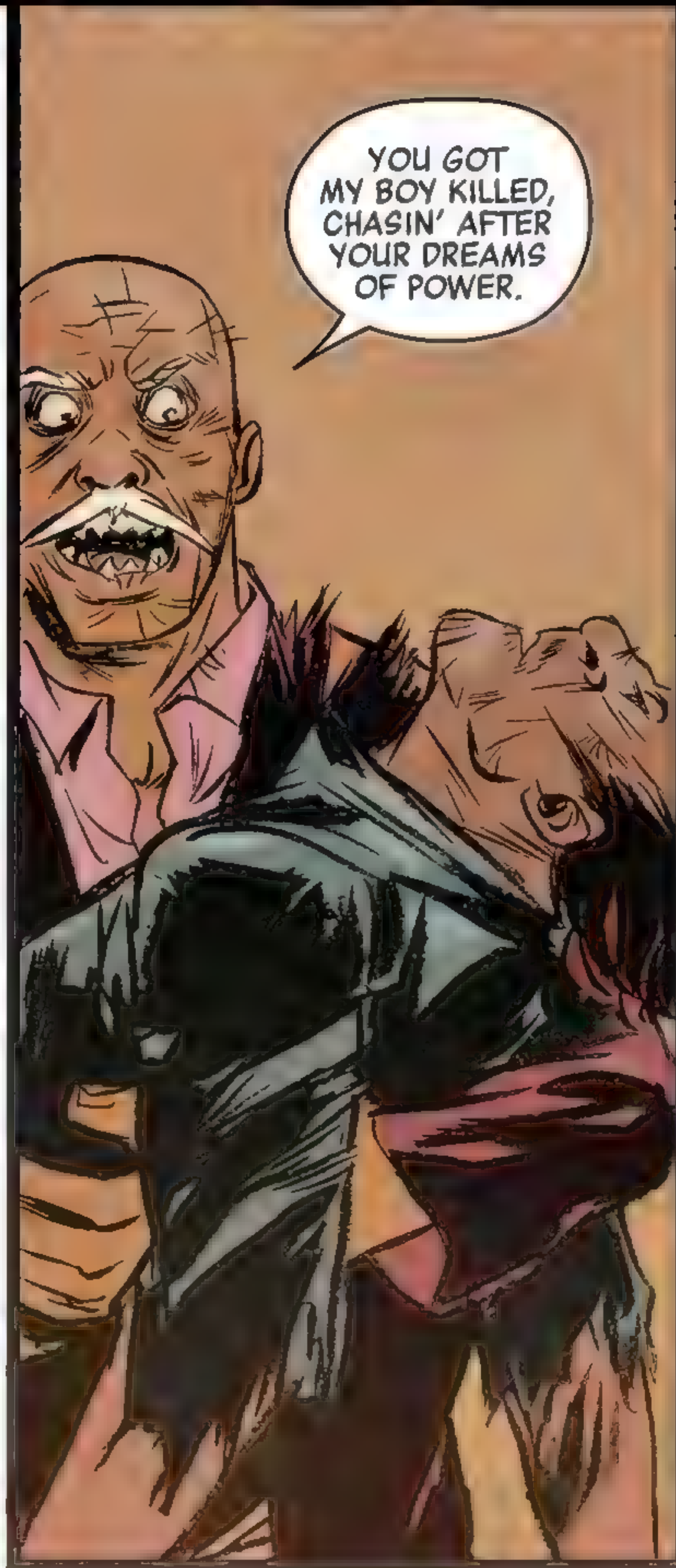
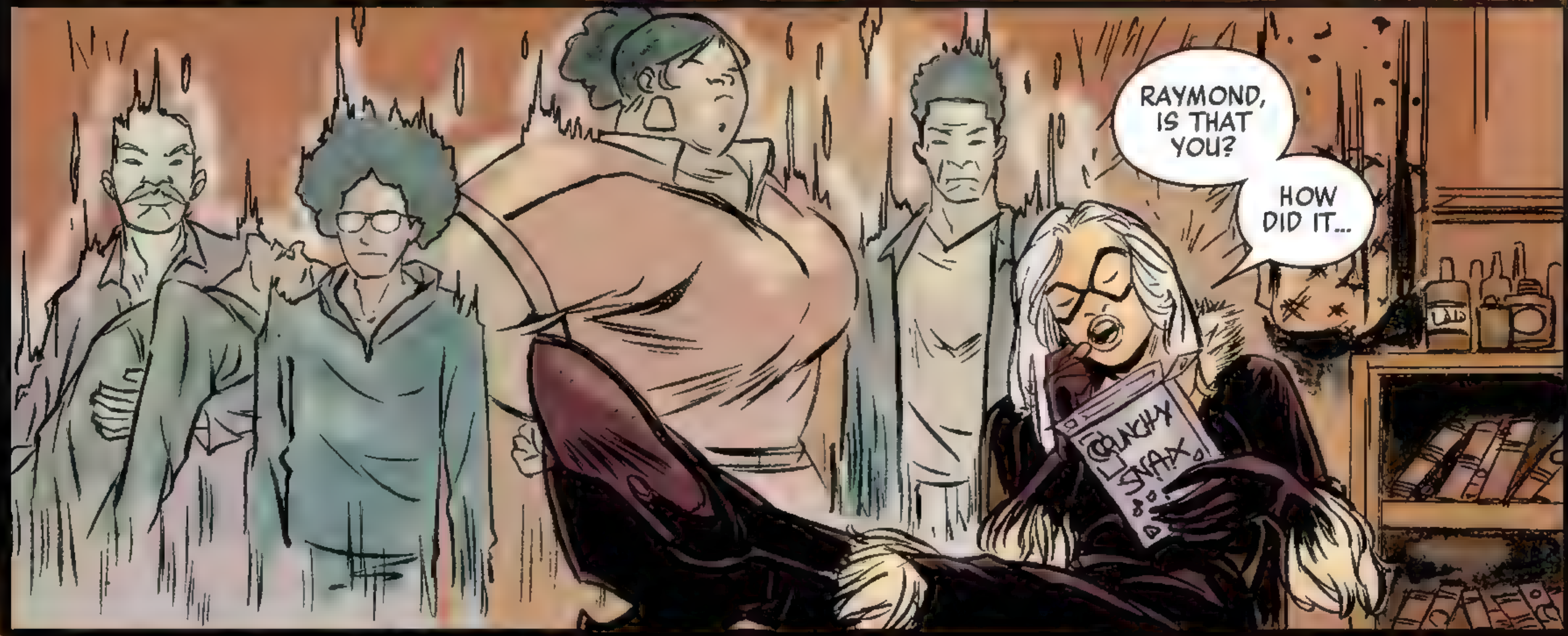
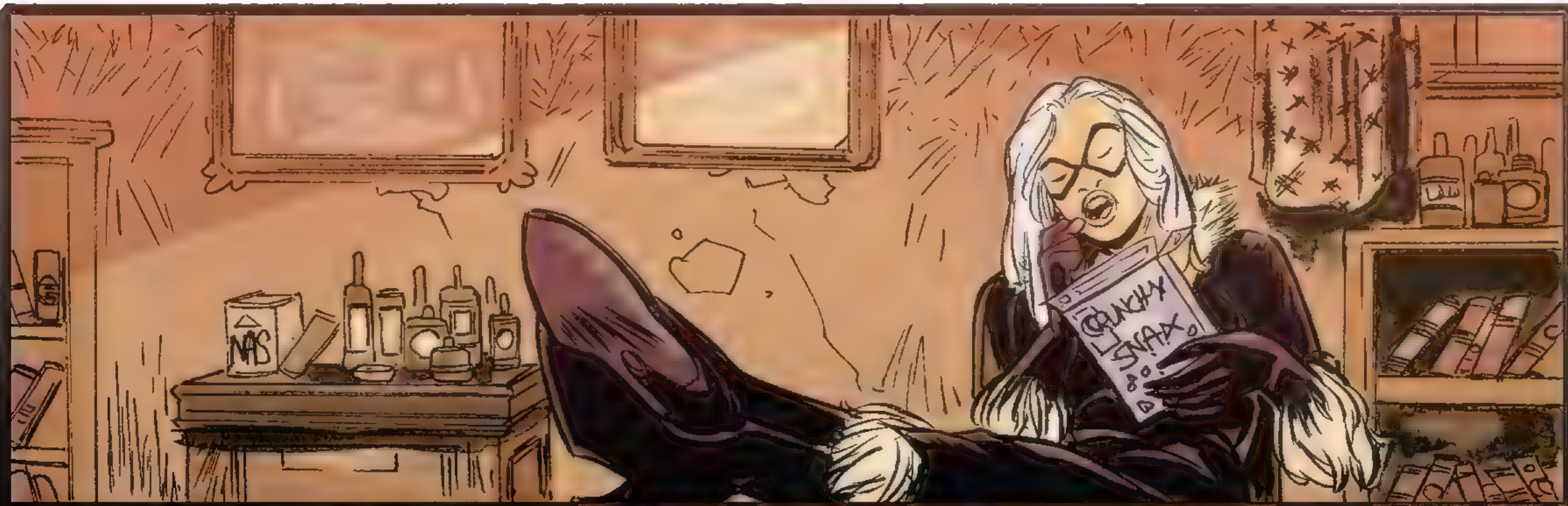
**IT'S A
TRAP!**











LATER.

HOW'S IT LOOK, BOSS?

THERE'S A LOT OF BODY BAGS, AND I'M GUESSIN' A BUNCH OF 'EM ARE FILLED WITH PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT THEY COULD CROSS ME--I JUST NEED TO KNOW EXACTLY WHO'S IN THOSE BAGS.

WHAT ABOUT LUKE CAGE AND IRON FIST?

YEAH, THOSE TWO...

"...I'LL HAVE TO TRY HARDER TO KILL THEM NEXT TIME. BUT THIS LITTLE WAR? IT'S OVER."

I KNOW THIS LOOKS BAD, LUKE-- BUT IT COULD BE WORSE.

HOW? THERE'S A LOT OF BODY BAGS.

THERE'D BE MORE IF IT WEREN'T FOR US.

FROM THE LOOK OF IT, ALL OF THEM WERE EITHER WITH PIRANHA JONES'S CREW OR THAT ALEX KID'S.

AND THAT MAKES IT BETTER? ONLY BAD GUYS GOT KILLED, EVERYONE ELSE JUST GOT INJURED?

NO.

NOT AT ALL.

YOU DON'T GET IT, DANNY.

TOMBSTONE PLAYED US. HE WHISPERED THAT SPEECH ABOUT ORDER VERSUS CHAOS, AND HOW WE HAD TO MAKE SURE THINGS DIDN'T GET OUT OF HAND...

...AND ALL HE WAS DOING WAS PLANNING ON KILLING US AND EVERYONE TRYING TO MOVE IN ON HIS TURF.

AND WE FELL FOR IT.

TRUST ME, LUKE, I SEE THIS FOR WHAT IT IS.

DID YOU SEE CARLOS CABRERA? HE WAS WITH BLACK MARIAH AND ALEX WILDER.

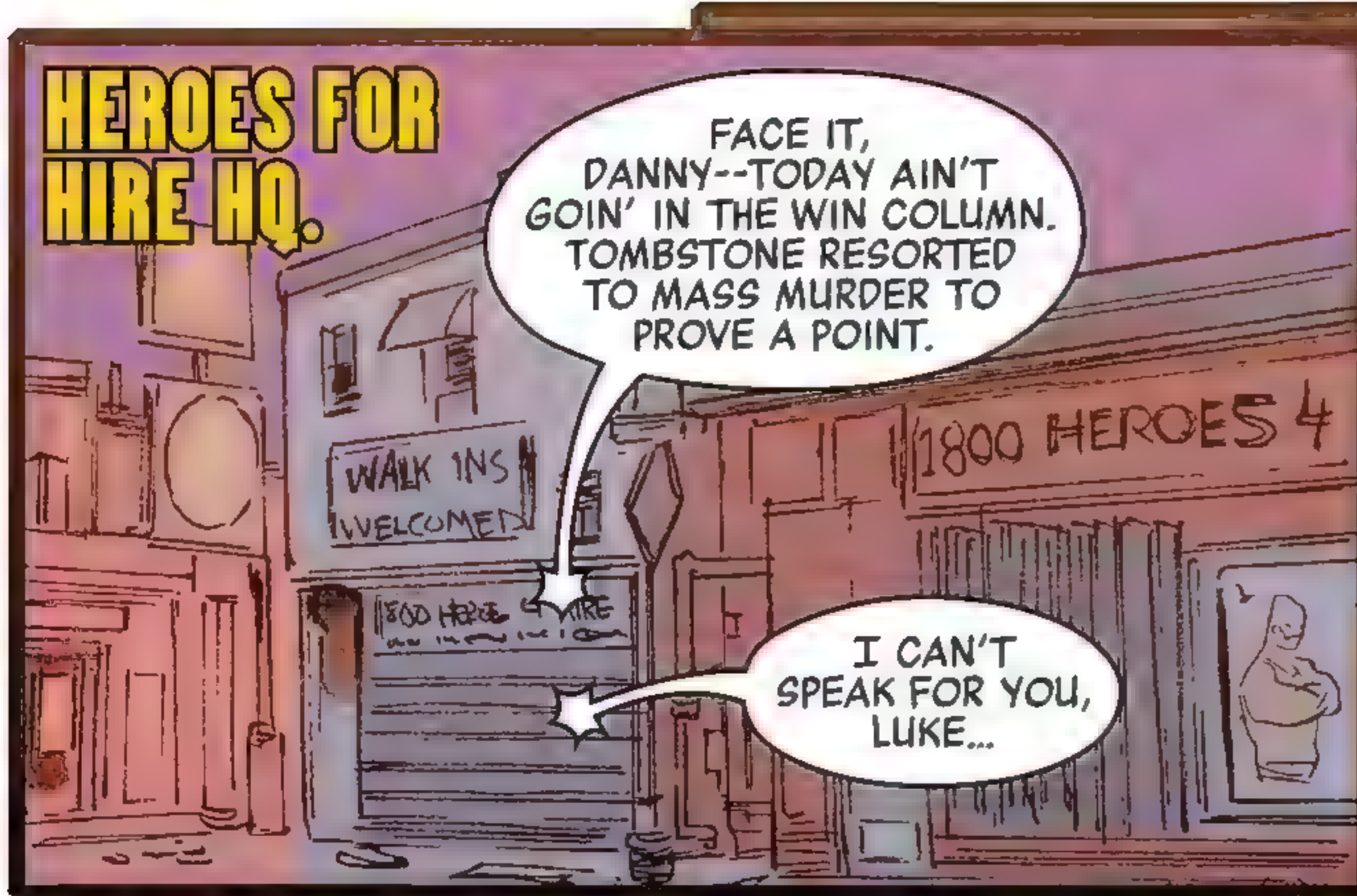
I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING STRAIGHT.

YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORST THING ABOUT THIS IS?

IT AIN'T OVER. WILDER AND HIS CREW GOT AWAY.

EXACTLY. THE WORST IS YET TO COME.

WE THE PEOPLE



...WELCOME
TO HEROES FOR
HIRE.

TIME
TO GET TO
WORK.

TO BE CONTINUED...

LUKE LETTERS & DANNY DIATRIBES

Holy smokes! What a literally explosive issue! As our own beloved Luke Cage might say, "Fiddle-faddle just got real." I hope all of you out there in the PMIF family had a wonderful holiday season, maybe even--dare I say it--a Sweet Christmas (or, at the very least, a POWER MAN AND IRON FIST SWEET CHRISTMAS ANNUAL, on sale now!), and are getting off to a strong start in 2017!

Since we ran out of time for a letters column last issue, we've got a lot to get to, so I'll go ahead and turn this over to David. Take it away, Mr. Walker!

Sweet Christmas! I'm absolutely loving this run. Brilliant characters, outstanding artwork, great storylines and super cool dialogue. Definitely one of the titles I look forward to the most from my pull list. Cannot wait for the next issue.

Keep up the damn fine work, you guys.

Leon Cooper
London

All I wanted for Christmas was a letter just like this one, and BOOM-BAP!!! I got it. Thank you.

Dear PMIF team:

My first introduction to POWER MAN AND IRON FIST was issue #124, plucked from the spinner rack at a used bookstore sometime in 1986. The cover captivated me, so I bought it. This comic was my very first exposure to Marvel super hero comics. Needless to say, I was shocked and saddened to discover that the series would be cancelled just one issue later. To ease the pain, I tracked down back issues of the old PMIF series, while waiting and hoping to see Luke make another appearance. He was in limbo for six years! He finally showed up in his own title, and of course, Iron Fist was brought back to life around the same time.

Over the years (thanks to the Internet and a few trips to the comic book store), I've continued to keep an eye on Luke and Danny's adventures. While it was nice to see them active in the Marvel Universe again, it wasn't the same...

When it was announced that Power Man and Iron Fist would be headlining their own title again, I was beyond thrilled! The new series captures what I liked most about the old series--that Power Man and Iron Fist are, first and foremost, friends--and they help people in need. As an old-school fan who particularly dug the Duffy/Gammill and Owsley/Bright issues of PMIF, I am that guy who appreciates all the nods and Easter eggs that old-school PMIF fans would recognize. That being said, I absolutely love the fresh take you guys are giving Luke and Danny. The story and art for the new series has been top-notch. Kudos to the entire team! I'm particularly pleased with how natural the dialogue is between Luke and Danny. Please keep doing that.

One thing I really want to see in the new PMIF series are some particularly major and noteworthy foes for our duo. In my opinion, Cage and Rand need a solid rogues' gallery. In the past, we've seen them go toe-to-toe with Master Khan and a long list of C-list villains like Montenegro, Doombringer, John Lumus, Chemistro, Warhawk, Chiantang, and Goldeneye. Who is the "Moriarty" for our favorite heroes?

Supporting characters like D.W. Griffith, Misty and Colleen, Gordy (Agent of S.M.I.L.E.), and Lt. Scarfe have been long absent--it would be nice to have them pop back into the series. And, as long as I'm making crazy requests, a PMIF Annual would make my year!

Keep up the great work!

Krishna M. Sadasivam
Odessa, FL

It's great to hear from another old school fan. I was reading the original run of PMIF when I was

a kid, and it definitely informed my sensibilities going into this series. And because I'm the coolest guy in the world...you're getting your annual. Look for the SWEET CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SPECIAL. [It came out 12/21, Krishna! Hope you grabbed a copy! --ed]

I've never written to a letters page before, but felt compelled after finishing PMIF #8. David Walker has taken a (in my opinion) wishy-washy crossover event and managed to use it to tell a concise, focused, powerful story about profiling and freedom and minority communities (Luke's appeal to Storm!) that stands strongly on its own as a comic book but also resonates deeply in the context of current events. It's so great and a real privilege to get to enjoy this work. Thanks to the whole team and I hope it carries on for a long, successful run!

Tim Soldani
New York, NY

We were lucky when it came to our CIVIL WAR II tie-in because it fit in with the direction we were taking the story. I knew that once we brought Luke and Danny back together, there would be some kind of outside force that would physically split them up, while at the same time bringing them closer together emotionally and ideologically.

Hello, Walker and Greene!

I have been digging a nice little nest for myself out of all the comics I've been collecting in these recent years, due to the tried and true "the book's always better than the movie" mantra.

So I started researching after the *Daredevil* and *Jessica Jones* Netflix shows and found these two great characters. And then I found this series. And I am pumped.

Sure, I may be a new fan, but I can nerd out with the best of them, and this series is phenomenal. I love the art and the street vibes and the gritty Harlem feel of it all. I love Danny so, so much. They're just both such great characters, and I love the work you're doing. Keep it up!

Your new fan,
Jo Tonks

New fans are awesome (which makes you awesome). Bask in that awesomeness, knowing that Team PMIF appreciates the kind words and the support.

To the entire creative team of PMIF,

Hoo boy, do I love this comic book. It is so much knick-knack-paddy-whackin' fun!

I love the heart and humor. I love that two dudes who are kind of outsiders in the Marvel Universe have found a special bond in each other and formed this unorthodox and awesome team. I love that Luke is this wise, reluctant hero who seems to secretly kind of love the craziness that comes with super-heroics. I love that Danny is this eccentric free spirit who can suddenly become the most dangerous person in the room. I love that they are a pair of super heroes concerned with not just justice, but social justice. I love all of the quirky and cool peripheral characters that inhabit their world. I love the storytelling. I love the art. I just love this book.

Thank you to everyone involved for an amazing comic series.

Thanks,
Patrick McMullen

Thank you. As a team, we do what we do, but often we are left wondering, "Is anyone really getting where we're going with this?" You get it. And I can't tell you how much it means to all of us to know that we're hitting the right the nail on the head.

Just finished reading POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #9 and I think it's the best of the CIVIL WAR II tie-ins I read. There were so many things going on, and I can hardly wait to read what all this is leading to.

New issues of PMIF are always a talking point with our regulars (I work at Magic Mirror Comics in Everett, WA), and this one is gonna have us talking for a couple hours at least.

And finally, a question: I really love how y'all reinvented the character of Black Mariah. She's been a fun villain. When you chose to write her in your first arc, did you know she was going to be such a big part of the *Luke Cage* Netflix show? Love them both (I mean, how could someone not love Alfre Woodard?) and am asking out of pure curiosity. Looking forward to reading PMIF #10!

Wyn
@brassmama

Black Mariah had been at the top of my list of villains to use before the casting announcement had been made for the television series. She was a character that I felt could use some semblance of a makeover, while at the same time providing some really great story moments. Give my best to everyone at Magic Mirror Comics. Tell 'em I said, "Don't take no fiddle-faddle."

Hello, Mr. Walker!

Just wanted to say that I love the new POWER MAN AND IRON FIST series. It's probably the funniest ongoing series that I've been reading. The street-level action is also pretty great. I myself just finished reading issue #3 on Marvel Unlimited, and am months behind the story. Personally, I've always liked Danny more than Luke. Which of the boys is your favorite?

Sincerely,
David T.

I don't play favorites. Luke is easier to write, but I need and appreciate the challenges of writing Danny.

Thanks, David! That's all for this month! We'll see you in February, when the awesome Elmo Bondoc (who did the POWER MAN AND IRON FIST section of the crossover-event-in-one-issue DEADPOOL #13) steps in for what promises to be a powerful issue that you won't want to miss!

Stay Weird!

-Jake T.

NEXT ISSUE:

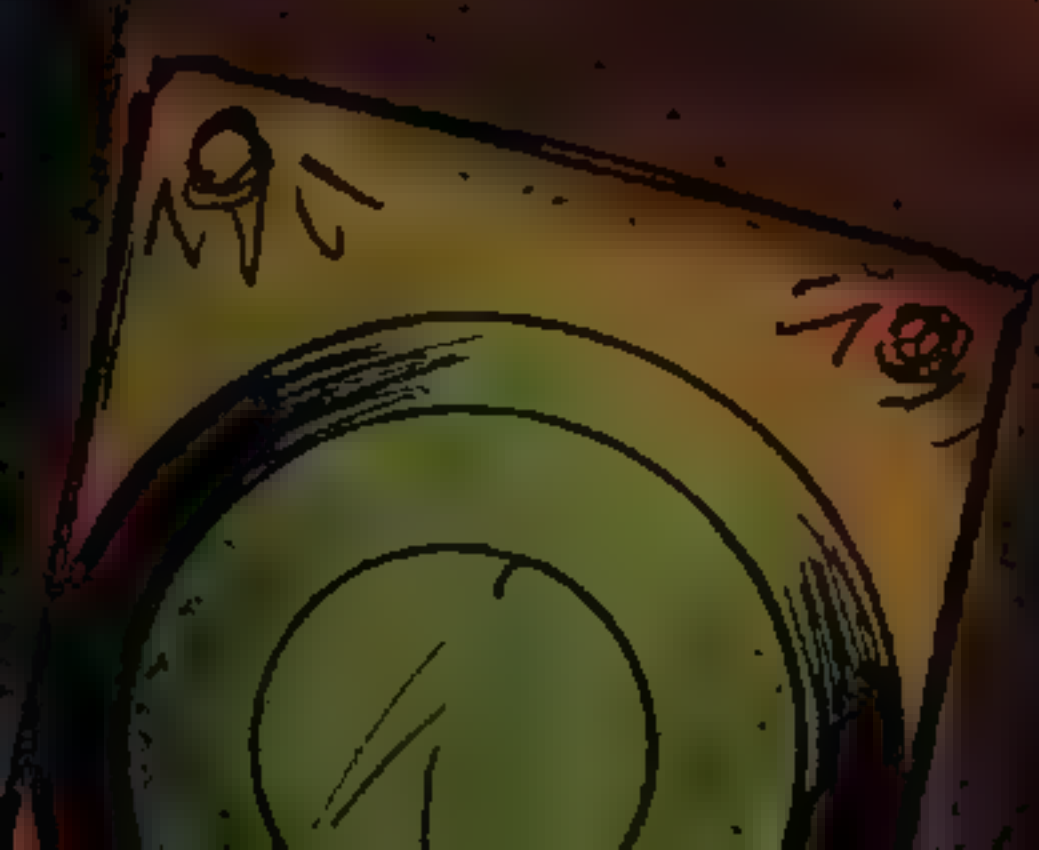


POWER MAN AND IRON FIST

MARVEL

013

WALKER
BONDOC
RAUCH

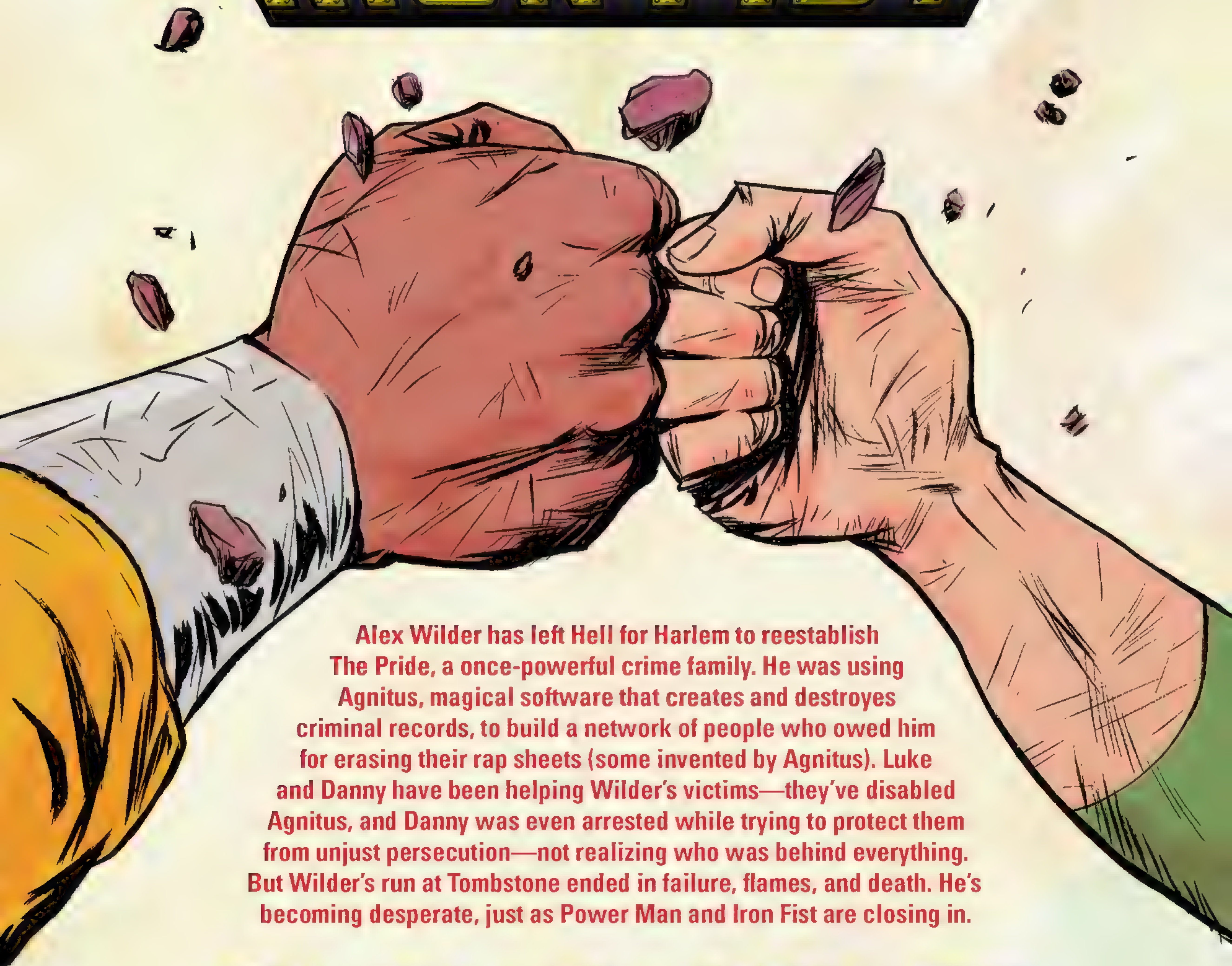


Orphan Daniel Rand earned the power of the Iron Fist in the mystical city of K'un Lun. As an adult, Danny oversees the Rand Corporation and moonlights as Iron Fist: kung fu defender of the innocent.

Prisoner Luke Cage was subjected to experiments that gave him superhuman strength and durability. As Power Man, he's been a hero and an Avenger, and now a husband and father.

After years apart, they're back together as Heroes for Hire.

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST



Alex Wilder has left Hell for Harlem to reestablish The Pride, a once-powerful crime family. He was using Agnitus, magical software that creates and destroys criminal records, to build a network of people who owed him for erasing their rap sheets (some invented by Agnitus). Luke and Danny have been helping Wilder's victims—they've disabled Agnitus, and Danny was even arrested while trying to protect them from unjust persecution—not realizing who was behind everything. But Wilder's run at Tombstone ended in failure, flames, and death. He's becoming desperate, just as Power Man and Iron Fist are closing in.

DAVID F. WALKER
writer

ELMO BONDOC
artist

JOHN RAUCH
color artist

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
letterer & production

SANFORD GREENE
cover artist

KATHLEEN WISNESKI
asst. editor

JAKE THOMAS
editor

AXEL ALONSO
editor in chief

JOE QUESADA
chief creative officer

DAN BUCKLEY
publisher

ALAN FINE
exec. producer

ONE WEEK AGO.
(GIVE OR TAKE A FEW DAYS.)

WORD IS,
TOMBSTONE IS
CIRCLING HIS WAGONS--
HUNKERING DOWN IN
A SINGLE LOCATION
FOR THE BATTLE
TO COME.

NOW, EVEN
THOUGH I'D
RATHER AVOID IT,
WE MOVE ON
TO PLAN B...

"PLAN
B"?

B FOR **BULLETS,**
BLOOD, AND **BODY**
COUNT.

DONTRELL...

...WHERE YOU
GOING?

I GOT
A BAD FEELIN'
'BOUT ALL THIS,
MARIAH.

AIN'T NEVER
BEEN ONE TO TURN
HIS BACK ON MAYHEM AND
MURDER--BUT SOMETHING
FEELS OFF...

...AND I CAN'T BE PART OF THIS. ALEX IS A COOL KID, AND HE'S DONE A LOT FOR US--BUT THIS WAR WITH TOMBSTONE, THAT COMES WITH A COST.

THAT COST IS GONNA BE BLOOD FROM PEOPLE WE USED TO CALL FAMILY.

REALLY?

YOU GONNA WALK AWAY FROM A CHANCE TO BE MORE THAN YOU'VE EVER BEEN-- TO HAVE MORE THAN YOU'VE EVER HAD?

ALEX MAY BE A KID, BUT HE'S MORE OF A MAN THAN YOUR SORRY ASS WILL EVER BE.

YOU COULD COME WITH ME-- I GOT A LEAD ON A GIG IN TACOMA. ALEX ERASED OUR CRIMINAL RECORDS. WE'RE FREE TO GO ANYWHERE.

BE JUST YOU AND ME, GIRL.

I'M FREE TO GO ANYWHERE, AND I'M GONNA GO WITH YOU?

PLEASE, MARIAH... I... YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL. YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT I...

STOP RIGHT THERE, DONTRELL--LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF. YOU AIN'T EVER GONNA BE ANYTHING. KNOW WHY?

YOU ARE A WEAK-ASS PUNK. ALWAYS HAVE BEEN. ALWAYS WILL BE.

YOU THINK I COULD EVER LOVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU?

DON'T... PLEASE... DON'T SAY THAT. YOU COULD. I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.

EXCEPT BE A REAL MAN.

THAT'S RIGHT, GET TO STEPPIN'.

"WE'RE HERE TO SAY GOODBYE TO THE DEAR, DEPARTED..."

ONE WEEK LATER.
(GIVE OR TAKE A FEW DAYS.)



...RAYMOND
"PIRANHA" JONES--
ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS.
I LET SOME PETTY BEEF
GET BETWEEN US,
AND NOW...

...SORRY. IT AIN'T LIKE CORNELL TO GET
EMOTIONAL LIKE THIS, BUT RAYMOND
WAS MY ACE.

IF ANY OF
Y'ALL GOT A STORY YOU
WANT TO SHARE--YO, WE
CELEBRATIN' THE LIFE OF
SOMEONE SPECIAL.

THANKS,
CORNELL...



...GOTTA START BY
SAYIN', AIN'T NOTHING BUT
LOVE FOR PIRANHA.

HE WAS A PLAYER'S PLAYER. GENTLEMAN AND GANGSTER, THROUGH
AND THROUGH. I REMEMBER THIS ONE TIME, I WAS IN SOME
TROUBLE, AND RAYMOND...WELL...Y'ALL KNOW
HOW HE DID...



WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU
DOIN' HERE,
CAGE?



CODE OF THE STREET, CORNELL. FUNERALS AND MEMORIALS ARE NEUTRAL TERRITORY. NO BEEF. NO DRAMA. DON'T MATTER WHAT SIDE YOU ON. JUST PAYIN' RESPECT TO THE DEPARTED.

THIS IS HOW WE DO, AND THIS IS HOW I DO. AND YOU KNOW THAT.

WORD. I ADMIRE A MAN WHO HONORS HIS ENEMIES.

I'M HERE TO PAY MY RESPECT, CORNELL. AIN'T HERE TO TALK ABOUT LONNIE, OR ANY OF THIS OTHER MESS.

BUT LET ME GIVE YOU SOME UNSOLICITED ADVICE--MAN TO MAN.

SAYS A LOT ABOUT YOU, AFTER ALL YOU BEEN THROUGH WITH PIRANHA... YET LONNIE AIN'T HERE AT ALL.

I KNOW ALEX WILDER USED THAT DEVICE OF HIS TO ERASE YOUR RECORD.

IF I WAS YOU, I'D LEAVE TOWN FOR A WHILE. LONNIE IS ON THE WARPATH, AND ALEX IS RECKLESS.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU TELLIN' CORNELL WHAT TO DO, CAGE.

AIN'T DOIN' NO SUCH THING, MAN. BUT LOOK AROUND YOU.

YOUR BOSS, ALEX, AIN'T HERE.

YOUR BEST FRIEND IS DEAD.

AND SOMEWHERE, LONNIE LINCOLN IS PLOTTING TO KILL EVERYONE THAT'S CROSSED HIM.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU DEAD ANY MORE THAN I WANTED TO SEE PIRANHA DEAD.

I'LL DEAL WITH TOMBSTONE. YOU CAN GO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY SOMEPLACE ELSE, AND IT'S ONE LESS BODY TO BURY.

MEANWHILE...

HEROES

MR. RAND, IT TOOK SOME SERIOUS DIGGING, AND A BIT OF HACKING, BUT THIS IS EVERYTHING I'VE FOUND ON ALEX WILDER.

MR. RAND?

SORRY, GADGET. DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

I FINALLY DUG UP SOME REAL INFO ON THIS KID.

THE ONLY THING I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ALEX WILDER IS HOW TO STOP HIM.

THIS KID--HE'S STARTED A GANG WAR TRYING TO MUSCLE IN ON TOMBSTONE'S OPERATION.

AND NOW PEOPLE ARE DEAD BECAUSE OF HIM.

HE SPECIALIZES IN DESTROYING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIKE THIS--CARLOS CABRERA WAS GETTING HIS LIFE TOGETHER.

TELL ME, GADGET...

"...DO I REALLY NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ALEX WILDER THAN THAT?"

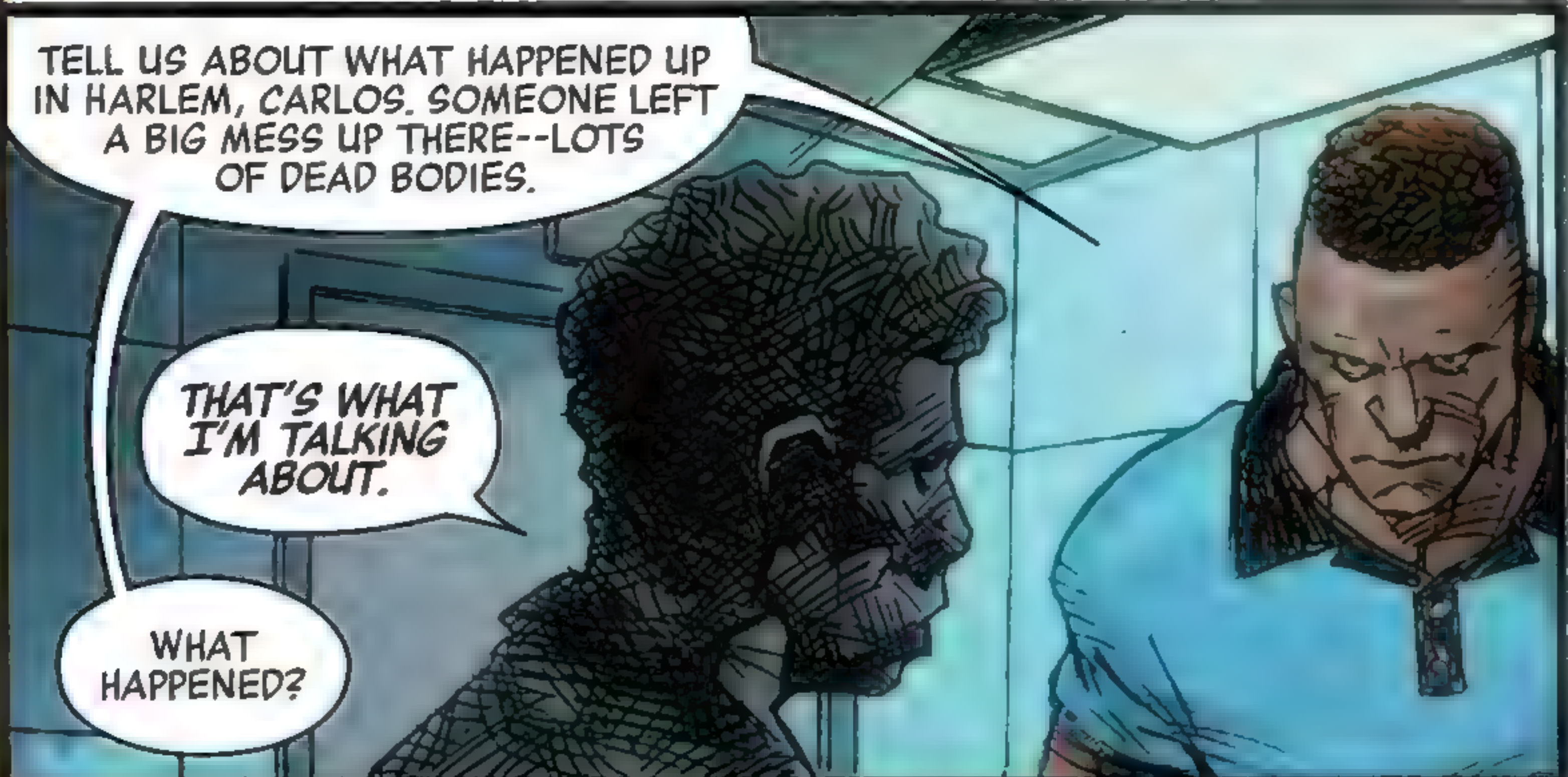
ELSEWHERE.

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT MORE YOU WANT FROM ME.

EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT ALEX WILDER'S OPERATION, CARLOS.



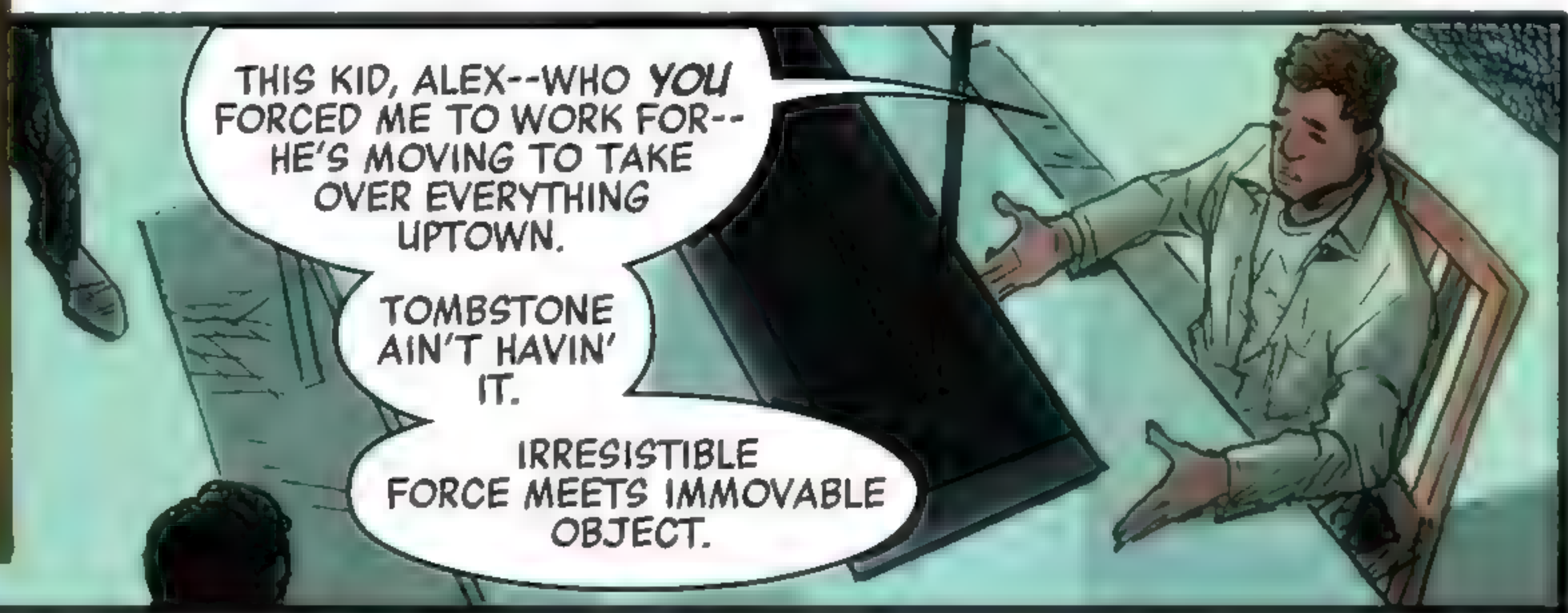
DETECTIVE HASTINGS, I'VE DONE EVERYTHING YOU AND DETECTIVE KYLE HAVE ASKED, BUT THIS IS GETTING TOO DANGEROUS.



TELL US ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED UP IN HARLEM, CARLOS. SOMEONE LEFT A BIG MESS UP THERE--LOTS OF DEAD BODIES.

THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

WHAT HAPPENED?



THIS KID, ALEX--WHO YOU FORCED ME TO WORK FOR--HE'S MOVING TO TAKE OVER EVERYTHING UPTOWN.

TOMBSTONE AIN'T HAVIN' IT.

IRRESISTIBLE FORCE MEETS IMMOVABLE OBJECT.



WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT ALEX'S OPERATION?

I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU ALL I KNOW.

I'M JUST HIRED MUSCLE. I SEE A BIT HERE AND THERE, BUT I DON'T HEAR MUCH OF ANYTHING.

THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH...



...YOU WANT TO STAY OUT OF PRISON? YOU WANT TO BE REUNITED WITH YOUR DAUGHTER?

WE'RE TRYING TO WORK WITH YOU HERE--HELP YOU OUT. BUT WE NEED INFORMATION ON THIS ALEX WILDER KID. THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.

I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T HEARD...



...ALEX ERASED MY RECORD--ALL OF IT. HE'S GOT SOME PROGRAM THAT CAN DO THAT. OR AT LEAST HE DID--SOMETHING HAPPENED TO IT.

ALEX IS *MUY LOCO*, UNDERSTAND? AND I AIN'T LOOKIN' TO GET KILLED.

I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT I'M DONE. I'M THROUGH DEALING WITH YOU GUYS, AND GOD WILLING...

"...I NEVER SEE
ALEX WILDER
AGAIN."

THINGS ARE
TOTALLY FALLING
APART, MARIAH. I HAD
IT ALL PLANNED
OUT, BUT...

LISTEN, A-WILD,
YOU GOT A GOOD
THING GOING HERE, AND
THINGS AIN'T AS BAD
AS YOU THINK.

HALF THE CREW
IS DEAD, THANKS TO
TOMBSTONE.

TOMBSTONE,
HE PLAYS FOR KEEPS.
AND LATELY IT SEEMS LIKE
HE'S GOT POWER MAN AND
IRON FIST IN HIS CORNER,
WHICH MAKES HIM EVEN
MORE DIFFICULT TO
TAKE ON.

TRUST ME--
ME AND JENNIE, WE
KNOW THAT FIRSTHAND.
AIN'T THAT RIGHT,
BOO-BOO?

THAT'S
RIGHT.

BUT YOU
CAN TURN THIS
AROUND.

WITH HALF
MY CREW DEAD
AND MOST OF THE
OTHERS RUNNING
SCARED?

YOU'RE
WORRIED BECAUSE
COCKROACH HAMILTON
AND A FEW OTHER WEAK-
ASS PUNKS RAN AND
HID? YOU DON'T
NEED THEM.

I
DON'T?

NO. YOU GOT
THE BRAINS, AND I
DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT
YOU GOT THE MUSCLE--
I SAW THE WAY YOU
WHUPPED ON
TOMBSTONE.

PLUS, YOU
GOT MAGIC.
NO ONE HAS
AS MUCH
AS YOU.

TRUE.
TOTALLY
TRUE.

THE MAGIC IS
THE TICKET, A-WILD.
GET A HANDLE ON THAT.
USE IT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.
YOU KNOW ABOUT STREET
MAGIC, RIGHT? THAT'S
WHERE THE REAL
POWER IS.

MARIAH...

NOT NOW,
JENNIE. I'M
TELLING A-WILD
HOW HE CAN BE
UNSTOPPABLE.



IS THIS AN INTERROGATION? 'CAUSE I'VE GOT TO BE HONEST, THIS FEELS LIKE AN INTERROGATION.

YEAH. WHY DO I GET THE FEELING MY LAWYER NEEDS TO BE HERE?



MR. CAGE, MR. RAND, THIS IS NOT AN INTERROGATION-- FAR FROM IT. BUT THE TWO OF YOU HAVE TO ADMIT...



...YOU'VE RECENTLY BEEN INVOLVED IN SOME PRETTY HEAVY ACTION, INCLUDING THE EXPLOSION THE OTHER DAY AT THE GREENLEE HOUSING PROJECTS.



WE GAVE A FULL STATEMENT AT THE SCENE, AND TWO FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEWS. THAT'S THREE TIMES WE'VE GONE ON THE RECORD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

AND THREE TIMES IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE CHARM.

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.



YOU SEEM PRETTY CASUAL FOR SOMEONE MIXED UP IN AS MUCH TROUBLE AS YOU ARE.

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

HEY NOW, LET'S NOT START GETTING ADVERSARIAL-- NOT WHEN THINGS WERE GOING SO WELL.

YOU CALL THIS "GOING WELL"?



WELL, IT COULD BE GOING BETTER...

HERE'S THE SITUATION--WE'RE DEALING WITH ONE OF THE MOST BRUTAL GANG WARS HARLEM HAS SEEN IN YEARS, AND THERE'S NO SIGN IT'S OVER.

WE'VE IDENTIFIED SOME OF THE PLAYERS, AND A FEW ARE TIED TO YOU AND WHAT WENT DOWN AT RYKER'S.

YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT RYKER'S? THEN WE NEED TO GET MY LAWYER DOWN HERE.



IT'S OKAY, MAN. LET ME BREAK IT DOWN FOR THESE GENTLEMEN, IN LANGUAGE THEY CAN EASILY UNDERSTAND AND THAT WON'T INTERFERE WITH YOUR PROBATION.



LAST I HEARD, THERE WERE FIVE INVESTIGATIONS SURROUNDING THE ENTIRE RYKER'S DEAL, NOT INCLUDING OURS.

OURS DEALS SPECIFICALLY WITH IDENTIFYING AND CLEARING EVERYONE **WRONGLY INCARCERATED** AS A RESULT OF THE AGNITUS SOFTWARE.

EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN DOING HAS BEEN REPORTED BACK TO ALL THE REQUIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?



WE UNDERSTAND YOUR WIFE HAS LEFT YOU, MR. CAGE. DOES THAT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH WHAT HAPPENED AT RYKER'S? HOW ABOUT THE RECENT GANG VIOLENCE IN HARLEM?

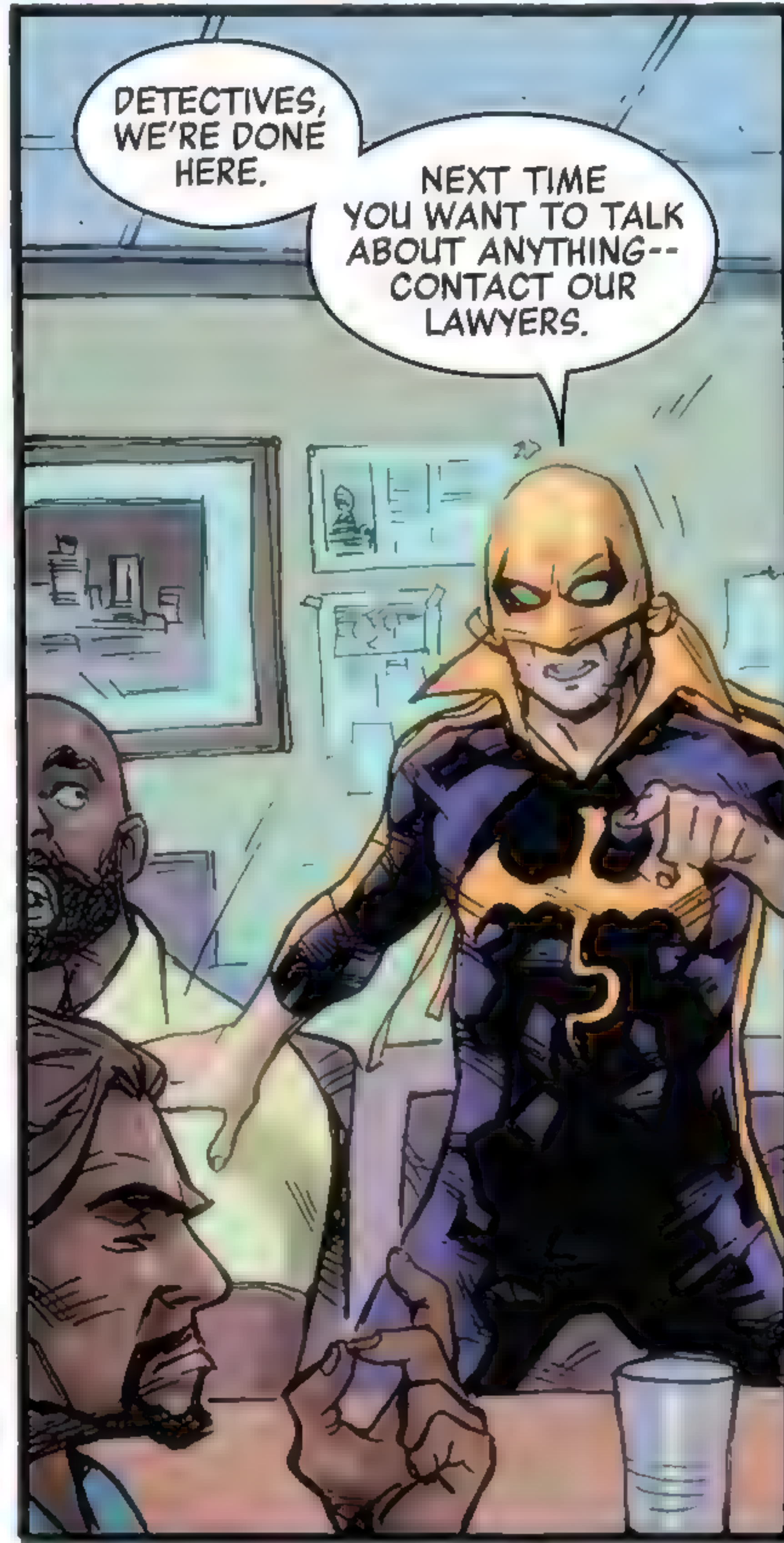
IS THAT WHY SHE LEFT--TO GET AWAY FROM ALL OF THAT?



WHO THE HEY-DIDDLE-DIDDLE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, COMIN' IN HERE ASKIN' ME THAT KIND OF FIDDLE-FADDLE?!

LUKE, EASE BACK, MAN. HE'S TRYING TO WORK YOUR NERVES.

TRYIN'?!?



DETECTIVES, WE'RE DONE HERE.

NEXT TIME YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING--CONTACT OUR LAWYERS.



YOU
COULD'VE HANDLED
THAT BETTER,
DETECTIVE.

WE'VE GOT
BODIES PILING UP
AND YOU WANT TO PLAY
SOFTBALL WITH THESE
CLOWNS?

NOW
THAT WE DON'T
HAVE LEVERAGE
OVER CARLOS
CABRERA...

...WE DON'T
HAVE ANYTHING BUT A
BUNCH OF UNANSWERED
QUESTIONS.



HE'S LUCKY I DIDN'T
PUT MY FOOT TO
HIS ASS.

I KNOW IT
WOULD'VE FELT
GOOD, BUT WE DON'T
NEED THAT KIND
OF TROUBLE.

MR. RAND,
MR. CAGE--THERE'S
SOMEONE HERE TO
SEE YOU.

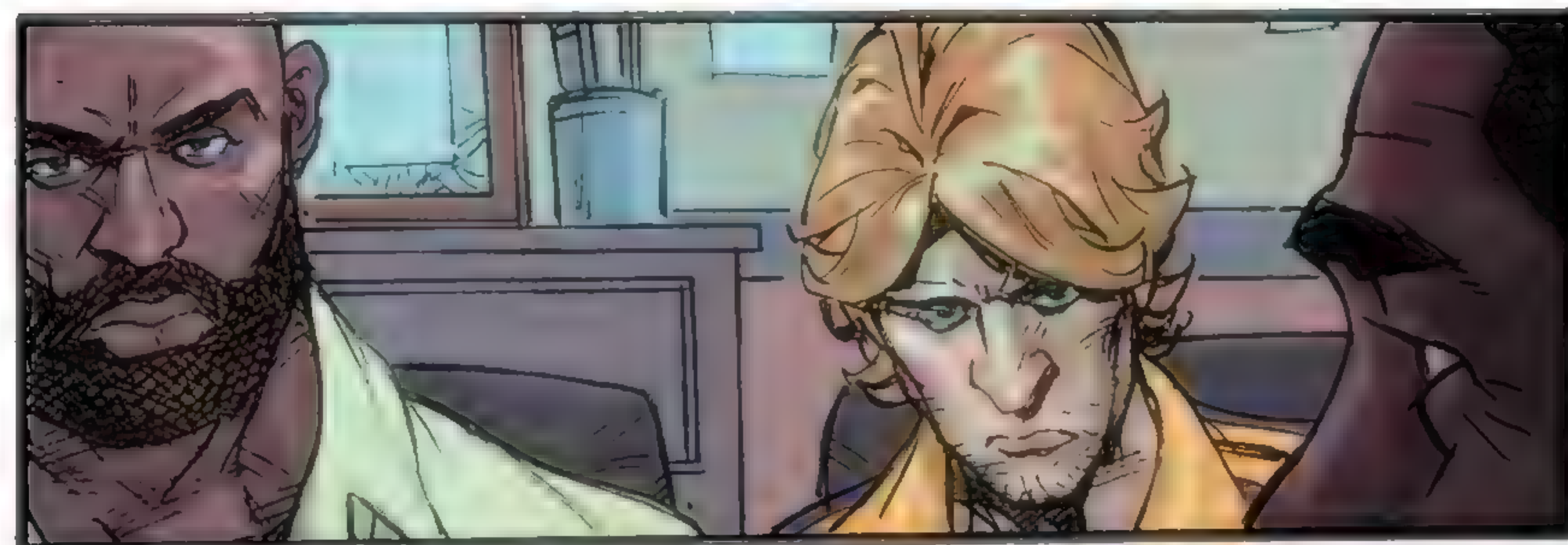
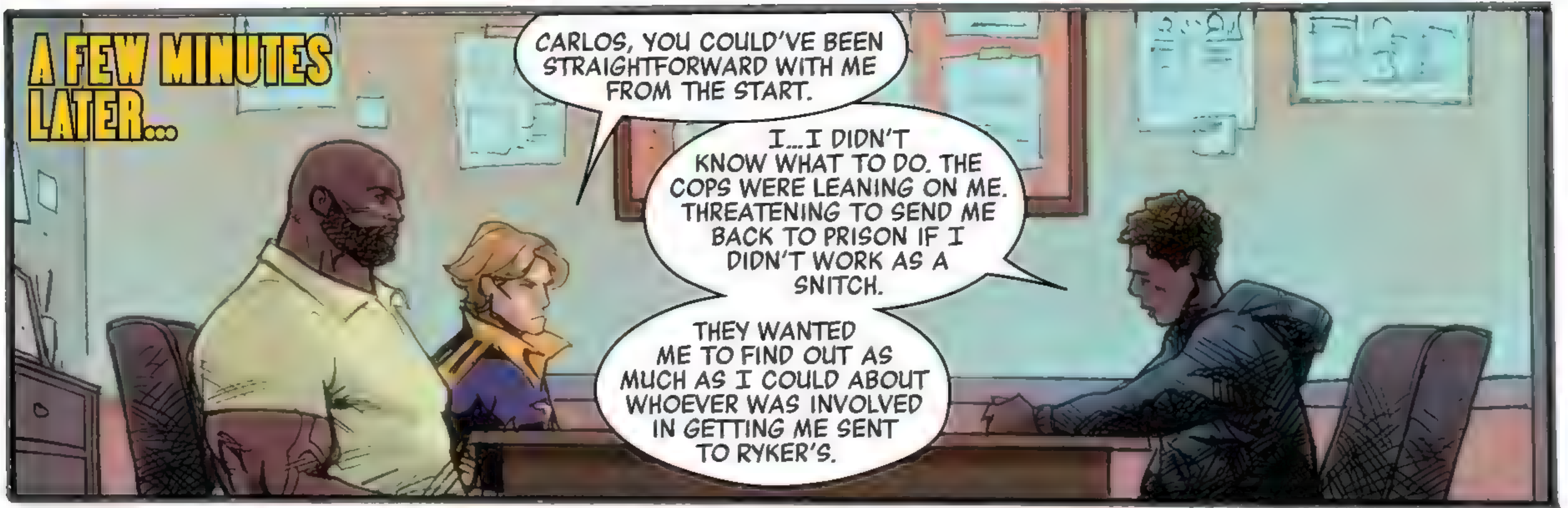


I NEED TO
TALK TO YOU
GUYS...



CARLOS--WHAT
THE HELL ARE YOU
DOING HERE?

THIS
DAY JUST
KEEPS GETTING
BETTER AND
BETTER.



**SEÑOR MÁGICO'S
MAGIC SHOP.**

HOLA.
¿CÓMO
ESTÁS?

CAN I
HELP YOU WITH
SOMETHING,
AMIGO?

AS A
MATTER OF
FACT...

...YOU
CAN TOTALLY
HELP ME.

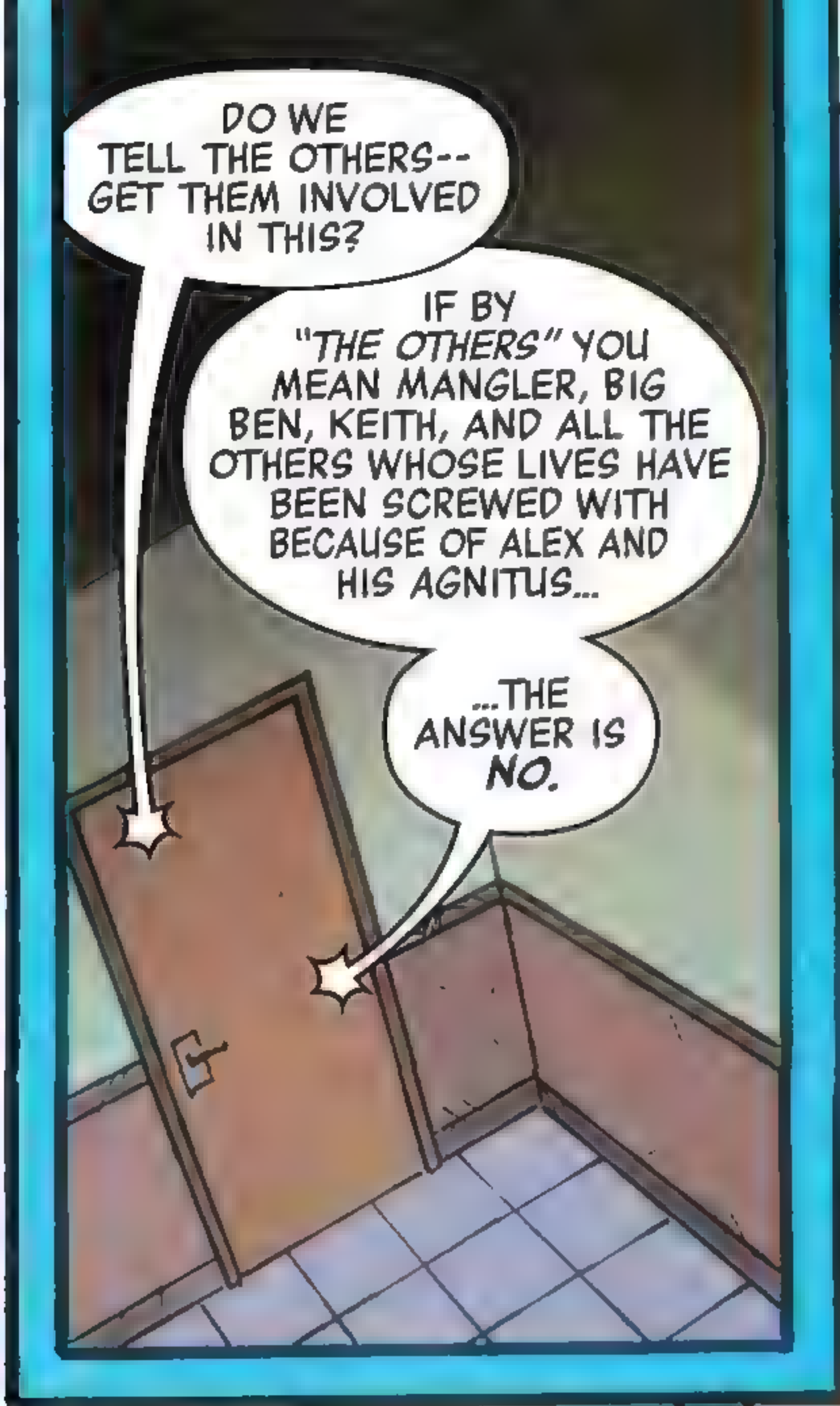
WORD ON
THE STREETS IS
YOU KNOW WHERE
TO GET YOUR HANDS ON
THE SUPERSOUL STONE--
NOT TO MENTION A
FEW OTHER...
SPECIALTY
ITEMS.

YOU!

FROM SEÑOR
MÁGICO YOU GET
NOTHING-- OTHER
THAN A TASTE OF
MY POWERS.

HEY,
IF THAT'S
THE WAY YOU
WANT TO DO THIS--
I'M TOTALLY
DOWN.

ZERBLAAAST



DO WE
TELL THE OTHERS--
GET THEM INVOLVED
IN THIS?

IF BY
"THE OTHERS" YOU
MEAN MANGLER, BIG
BEN, KEITH, AND ALL THE
OTHERS WHOSE LIVES HAVE
BEEN SCREWED WITH
BECAUSE OF ALEX AND
HIS AGNITUS...

...THE
ANSWER IS
NO.



WE'RE TALKING
ABOUT A LOT OF GUYS WITH
ANGER ISSUES LOOKING TO
SETTLE SCORES.

WE MIGHT
BENEFIT FROM SOME
EXTRA MUSCLE, BUT
NOT FROM ANY
EXTRA RAGE.



BETWEEN THE
TWO OF US, WE'VE
GOT ENOUGH PENT-UP
ANGER AND HOSTILITY FOR
THIS KID. NO NEED TO
ADD FUEL TO
THE FIRE.

WE'LL TAKE
HIM DOWN--TOGETHER.
LIKE WE'VE ALWAYS
DONE.



ACCORDING TO CARLOS, ALEX HAS SOME KIND
OF MAGICAL POWERS. BEFORE WE MAKE A MOVE,
WE'LL NEED SOME KIND OF PROTECTION
SPELL TO COVER OUR BUTTS.

IF IT'S COOL
WITH YOU, I'D LIKE
TO SEE SEÑOR MÁGICO
ABOUT THAT--HE'LL HAVE
WHATEVER WE NEED TO DEFEND
OURSELVES FROM SOME
ABRACADABRA FIDDLE-
FADDLE.



HEY.

YOU HEAR A
WORD I JUST
SAID?





LUKE...
I'M SORRY,
MAN.



WHAT'RE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

SORRY
ABOUT
WHAT?



THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. AND
NOT JUST THIS--I'M TALKING
EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED
SINCE WE GOT BACK
TOGETHER.

I WANTED TO
MAKE THINGS THE WAY
THEY WERE BEFORE. YOU'VE
GOT YOUR OWN FAMILY.
MISTY AND I ARE OVER,
I KNOW THAT, BUT IT
STILL STINGS.

I WAS...
I DON'T KNOW
HOW TO SAY IT...
SCARED OF BEING
ALONE.



I DIDN'T
WANT TO GO
BACK TO BEING THAT
ALIENATED KID IN K'UN
LUN WITH NO REAL
FRIENDS OR FAMILY.
SO WHAT DID
I DO?

I DRAGGED
YOU INTO MY
LONELINESS. I USED
YOU TO TRY AND MAKE
MYSELF FEEL
COMPLETE.

LOOK
AT WHERE MY FEAR
AND WEAKNESS HAS
LED US...



"...WE GOT DUPED BY
JENNIE AND BLACK
MARIAH INTO TAKING
ON TOMBSTONE.

"THERE WAS
THE RYKER'S
FIASCO.

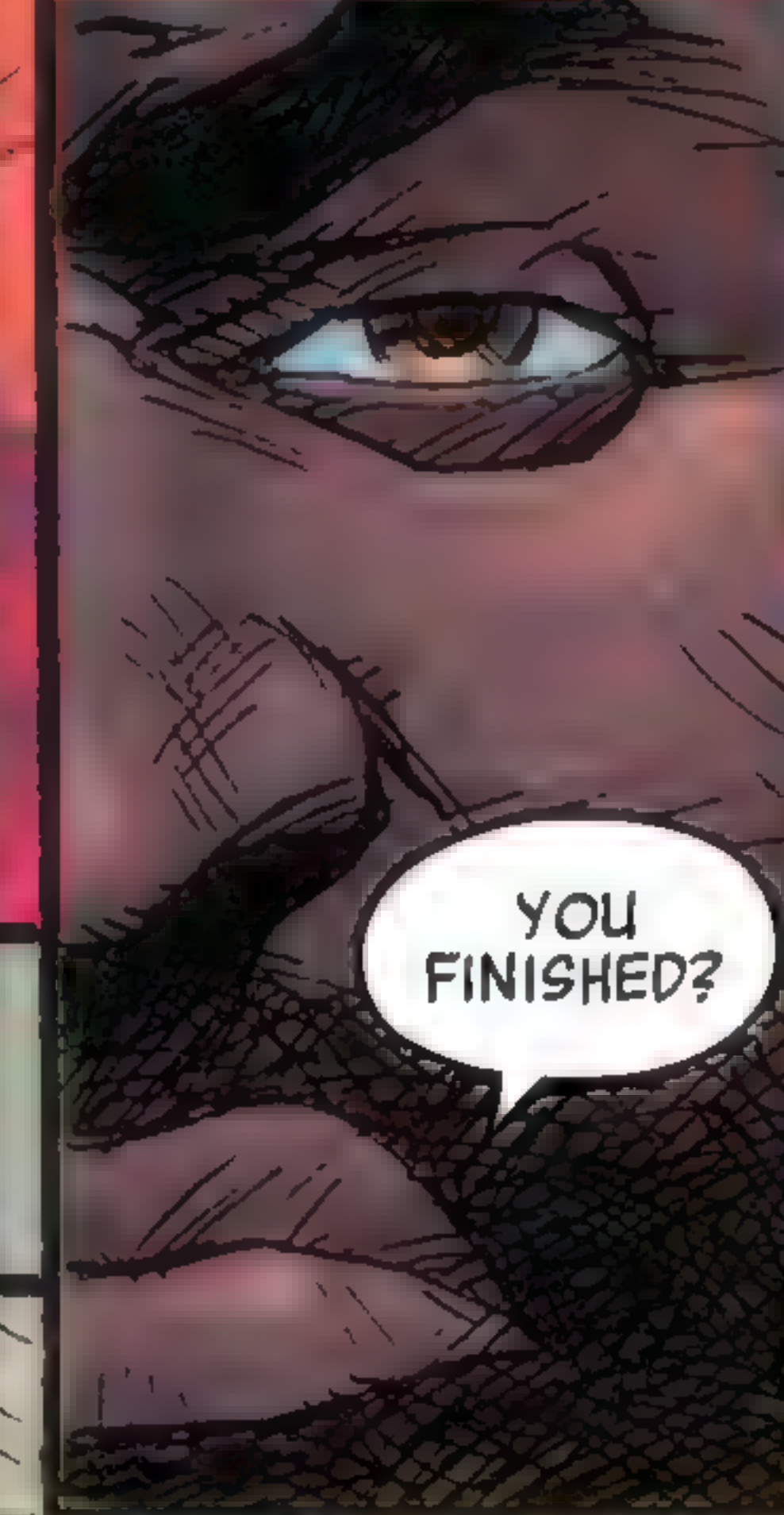
"THE GANG WAR
IN HARLEM.

"AND NOW..."



WELL...
JESSICA'S
LEFT YOU.

NONE OF
THIS WOULD'VE
HAPPENED IF
WE HADN'T
GOTTEN BACK
TOGETHER.



YOU
FINISHED?



I FIGURE WE'LL
NEED SOME KIND OF MAGICAL
PROTECTION SPELL BEFORE WE GO
IN AFTER ALEX. SEÑOR MÁGICO
CAN HOOK US UP.



THEN WE
DO WHAT WE DO
BEST--KICK ASS AND PUT
THE BAD GUYS OUT
OF BUSINESS.

TOGETHER.

ELSEWHERE...

HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A LONG TIME, LONNIE. YOU MUST BE IN A BAD SPOT IF YOU'VE COME ALL THIS WAY TO ASK FOR MY HELP.

YOU FINISHED GLOATING?

AIN'T GLOATING. JUST SURPRISED.

I'M HERE FOR TWO REASONS. I NEED TO FIND MORTIMER--MR. FISH. RUMOR HAS IT HE'S BEEN SENT TO HELL. I WANT HIM BACK.

SECOND, I NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT ALEX WILDER--INCLUDING HOW TO TAKE HIM OUT.

ALEX WILDER?

WHA'CHU KNOW 'BOUT ALEX WILDER?

HE'S STRONG. NOT JUST PHYSICALLY. HE'S GOT MAGIC--DID SOMETHING TO MR. FISH. MADE HIM DISAPPEAR. I DON'T KNOW WHERE.

I NEED TO KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THIS LITTLE PUNK, 'CAUSE FIGHTING VOODOO AIN'T MY THING.

ALEX WILDER IS DANGEROUS, LONNIE. DANGEROUS AND RECKLESS. GOOD THING YOU CAME TO ME...

SAMUEL BARONE

(A.K.A. BLACK TALON)

...I CAN HELP YOU. BUT I DON'T COME CHEAP.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE MONEY. JUST BRING BACK MR. FISH.

MEANWHILE...

SWEET
CHRISTMAS!

WHAT
HAPPENED?

I'M
SORRY, MY
FRIENDS...

...I
TRIED TO FIGHT
HIM.

TRIED
TO FIGHT
WHO?

ALEX? HE
CAME HERE?
WHY?

THE ONE
FROM BEFORE--
THE ONE THAT TOOK
THE AGNITUS
FROM ME.

HE CAME
LOOKING FOR TOOLS...
FOR STREET MAGIC...USED
ME TO GAIN ACCESS TO
THE SACRED VAULTS
OF THE ASTRAL
PLANE.

OH, NO.

WAIT...WHEN YOU SAY STREET
MAGIC TOOLS...YOU MEAN
LIKE THE SUPERSOUL
STONE, RIGHT?

THE SUPERSOUL
IS JUST ONE OF
MANY TOOLS.

HOW MANY OF THE TOOLS
DID ALEX GET HIS
HANDS ON?

OKAY, I
KNOW THAT UP
UNTIL RECENTLY I
DIDN'T EVEN BELIEVE
IN STREET MAGIC--
BUT THIS ISN'T
SOUNDING
GOOD.

WHAT ARE
WE DEALING
WITH HERE?



HE IS A POWERFUL MAGICIAN. BUT HIS ARROGANCE... HIS RECKLESSNESS...



I DON'T THINK HE EVEN KNOWS THE POWER HE WIELDS--THERE'S A REASON STREET MAGIC IS SO RARELY PRACTICED. IT IS ROUGH, RAW, AND... UNPREDICTABLE...



"...AND IT CAN'T BE MASTERED."

AAAARGH! IT HURTS!!!

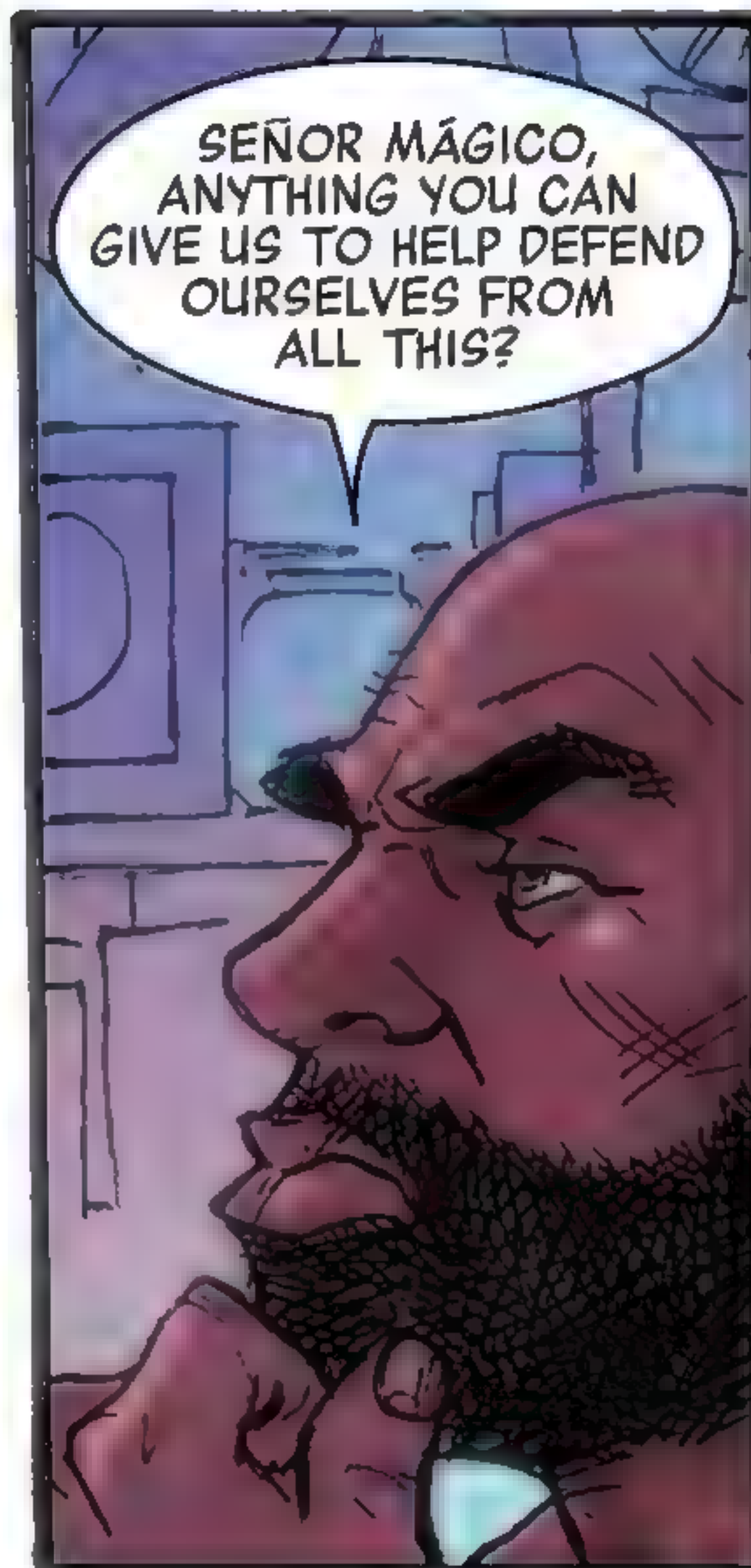
A-WILD?! WHAT'S WRONG?!



THIS IS BAD--WAY WORSE THAN I THOUGHT.

AIN'T THE SAME THING.

WE'VE DEALT WITH THE SUPERNATURAL BEFORE. I'VE HELD MY OWN AGAINST FORCES FROM MYSTIC REALMS.



SEÑOR MÁGICO, ANYTHING YOU CAN GIVE US TO HELP DEFEND OURSELVES FROM ALL THIS?



NO!



IT WOULD REQUIRE YEARS OF TRAINING IN THE MYSTIC ARTS TO PREPARE YOU TO FIGHT WHAT ALEX IS BECOMING.

ALL I CAN DO IS OFFER YOU THIS POTION OF PROTECTION.



THIS WAS A MISTAKE.

JUST 'CAUSE YOU COULDN'T HANDLE IT DOESN'T MEAN A-WILD CAN'T.



WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DRINK THIS? IT SMELLS LIKE DRAGON PISS.

UM...HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT DRAGON PISS SMELLS LIKE?



THE ELIXIR COMES FROM THE AZTEC GOD QUETZALCOATL--IT IS THE MOST POWERFUL OF PROTECTION POTIONS.



YOU...WILL... OBEY...



WELL, BOTTOMS UP.

CHEERS.



THAT'S IT, A-WILD--YOU'RE LIKE A BUTTERFLY COMIN' OUTTA THE COCOON.



I HOPE THIS IS ENOUGH TO PROTECT YOU, BUT REST ASSURED, I WILL BE FIGHTING AT YOUR SIDE. SO SWEARS SEÑOR MÁGICO.

WHATEVER HAPPENS...

"...YOU WILL NOT
FACE YOUR
ENEMY ALONE."

NO!
YOU...
ARE...NOT...IN
CONTROL!

I...AM IN...
CONTROL!

THIS IS
WRONG.

IT COULDN'T
BE MORE RIGHT,
BOO-BOO.

WELL...
OKAY.

LET'S
TOTALLY TEAR
THIS TOWN
APART.

TO BE
CONTINUED...

LUKE LETTERS & DANNY DIATRIBES

What's up, Heroes 4 Hire?

Man, things are getting pretty crazy in our little book! Harlem has burned and street magic is looming on the horizon! Wild times, and I can promise you, you're going to be blown away by what's coming! But that's for the future! For now, let's get to David F. Walker answering your letters!

Hello PMIF Crew,

I dig the outstanding work you've all done with PMIF.

Question: Have you considered converting Heroes for Hire into a nonprofit agency?

Job Training, Job Placement, Legal Counsel, etc....this has potential.

Thank you and enjoy the week.

Respectfully,
Cesar Diaz, Writer

I've been dancing around the premise a bit. There are hints of it going on in the "Harlem Burns" storyline--with the way Luke and Danny have guys like Mangler Daniels working for them--but I just haven't had the chance to lean into it yet.

I am officially flipping a fiddle-faddle here reading the latest issue of PMIF. This series has been pretty great so far and I'm eagerly anticipating each issue! I am so happy Alex Wilder is finally being used, especially with the ability to send someone to HELL! First time I read RUNAWAYS a decade ago I saw potential with Wilder becoming the next Nick Fury with his leadership, we all know how that turned out by the end! Can't wait to see the boys square up against the New Pride.

Edgar C.

Alex Wilder has been a character I've loved since I first read RUNAWAYS. I really wanted the opportunity to bring him back with a strong emphasis on his trying to make his parents proud. He's been really fun to write.

To the creative crew behind PMIF:

I must say, thank you very much for bring back Alex Wilder into the Marvel Universe. When I first read the article that referenced his return, I honestly

thought that this was fake news. Ever since his debut in the RUNAWAYS run, I've become obsessed with his character, due to how I identify with him. When he died, I held onto hope that one day he would be brought back and done absolute justice. When I found out that not only was he being resurrected, but he was making his return within the PMIF comics, I was absolutely delighted. Thank you very much, Walker and Greene. I can now continue life knowing that Alex Wilder has returned to the land of the living with a power set that rivals his own intellect. Here's an arbitrary question, however: If Alex Wilder had a musical playlist on Spotify, which artists would most likely be on it?

Sincerely,
Angelos C.

I can tell you that despite his criminal inclinations, Alex Wilder has exceptional taste in music. He's a big fan of Fishbone, A Tribe Called Quest, and Tom Jones.

Hello,

I just wanted to write to you and tell you how much I am enjoying the book: the writing and the art is all top-notch amazing, and thank you for bringing me back into the Marvel fold. I've always been a Luke Cage/Iron Fist fan and a Marvel Comics fan in general, but real life got in the way of my reading and collecting comics (kids and 11-hour shifts at work have a habit of doing that), so I wasn't really buying much anymore. Anyways, on Dec 19th, 2016, my father passed away and he was always amazed by and loved my collection, and to see me read my comics made him happy. I've collected from the time I was 7 to about age 38 now, with the exception of the last 2 years. So after the death of my dad, my family and I had been staying with my mom to help her, and I decided to stop in at the local comic shop (Retro Rocket Comics and Toys--great little shop) within walking distance of my mom's house. I immediately picked up every issue of POWER MAN AND IRON FIST I could find. Reading them helps me forget the pain of losing my

dad, especially during the holidays, even for a little bit. Thank you for being there and creating this great book--it's brought me back to Marvel, and made me remember why I loved comics so much. Most importantly, I can also feel my dad smiling down on me, happy that I've gotten back to reading comics such as this, and doing something that makes me happy again. Thank you all so much and keep up the great work.

Lenny Serpa

From the entire PMIF Team to you and your family: Please accept our deepest condolences. It is humbling to know that during such a difficult time, we were able to help you in some way. I don't want to get too heavy, but I have often felt that if I lack the power to make the world a better place in reality, the least I can do is create a world that people can escape to from time to time. Thank you for reaching out, much love and appreciation.

Thanks, David! If I may add a little personal message here, my mother-in-law passed away recently, and going back to art and stories that she loved and shared has been a huge boon to my wife. That we were able to deliver a similar comfort to someone in their time of loss means a great deal. Thank you for writing in and sharing, Lenny.

That's all we have this month, but we'll see you in a month for "Street Magic"!



Stay Weird!

-Jake T.

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST

MARVEL

014

WALKER
GREENE
LOUGHRIDGE

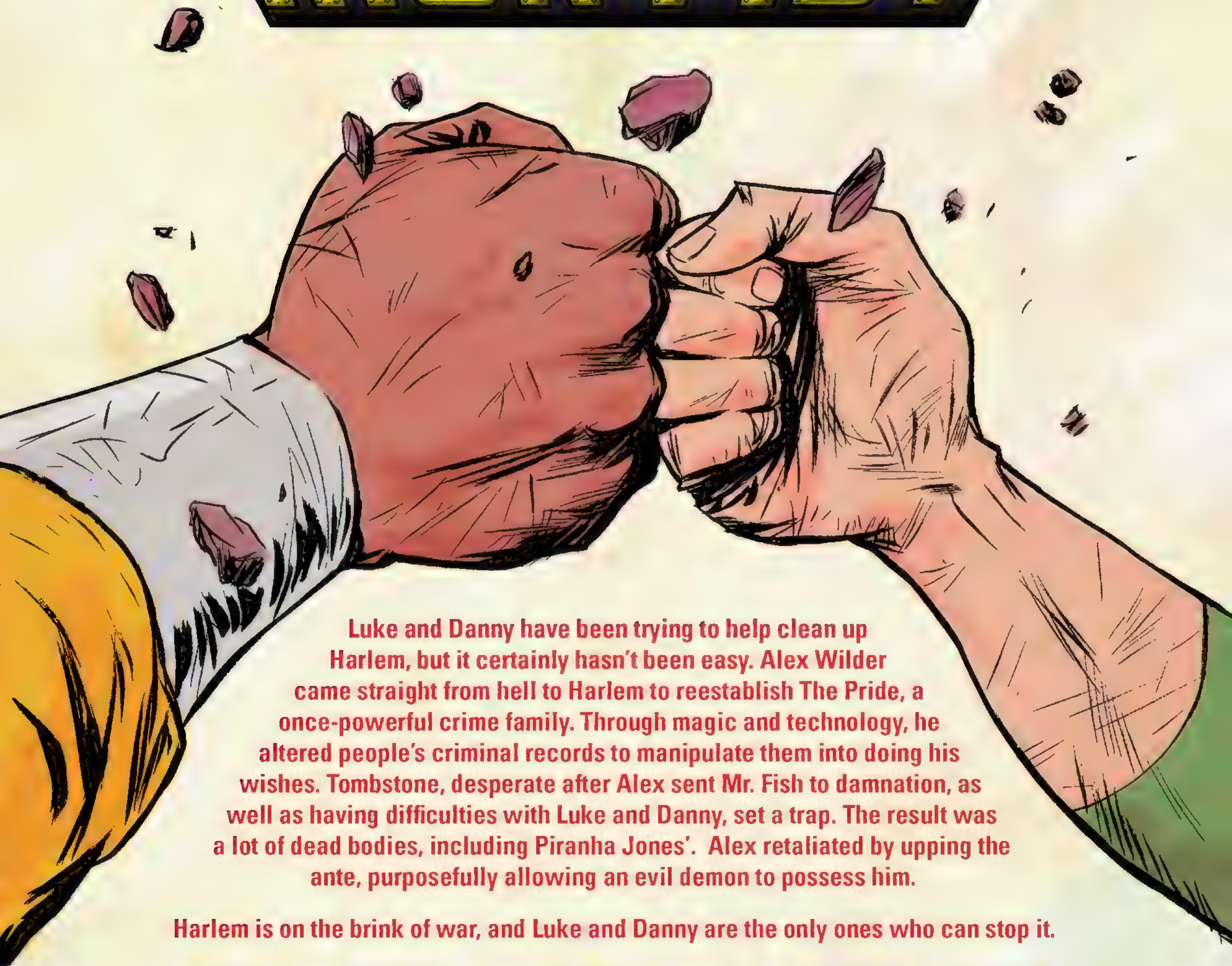


Orphan Daniel Rand earned the power of the Iron Fist in the mystical city of K'un Lun. As an adult, Danny oversees the Rand Corporation and moonlights as Iron Fist: kung fu defender of the innocent.

Prisoner Luke Cage was subjected to experiments that gave him superhuman strength and durability. As Power Man, he's been a hero and an Avenger, and now a husband and father.

After years apart, they're back together as Heroes for Hire.

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST



Luke and Danny have been trying to help clean up Harlem, but it certainly hasn't been easy. Alex Wilder came straight from hell to Harlem to reestablish The Pride, a once-powerful crime family. Through magic and technology, he altered people's criminal records to manipulate them into doing his wishes. Tombstone, desperate after Alex sent Mr. Fish to damnation, as well as having difficulties with Luke and Danny, set a trap. The result was a lot of dead bodies, including Piranha Jones'. Alex retaliated by upping the ante, purposefully allowing an evil demon to possess him.

Harlem is on the brink of war, and Luke and Danny are the only ones who can stop it.

DAVID F. WALKER
writer

SANFORD GREENE
artist

LEE LOUGHRIDGE
color artist

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
letterer & production

SANFORD GREENE
cover artist

KATHLEEN WISNESKI
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JAKE THOMAS
editor

AXEL ALONSO
editor in chief

JOE QUESADA
chief creative officer

DAN BUCKLEY
president

ALAN FINE
exec. producer



SAMUEL BARONE
(A.K.A. BLACK TALON.)

YOU SURE 'BOUT
THIS, TOMBSTONE?
BRINGIN' SOMEONE BACK
FROM THE DEAD AIN'T
NO EASY TASK.

NINETEEN DAYS AGO.

DO IT.

BRING
BACK MR.
FISH.



MAMASE.

MAMASA.

MAMAKUSA!



WHAT?

W...WHERE
AM I?

BACK
FROM THE
REALM OF THE
DAMNED.



MORT--
HOW YOU
DOIN'?

NOT
LONG.

LONNIE,
IT WAS... TERRIBLE.
AIN'T NEVER EXPERIENCED
ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
HOW LONG HAVE I
BEEN GONE?

FEELS LIKE...
FOREVER.



IT'S ALL OVER NOW. I GOT YOU BACK.
NOW WE TAKE CARE OF THE #\$\$@,
WHO DID THIS TO YOU.

WHO?

SOME PUNK--
ALEX WILDER'S
HIS NAME.

ALEX
WILDER, HUH?
I'M GONNA KILL
HIM.

SEVENTEEN DAYS AGO.

C'MON,
THIS TIME IT
TOTALLY HAS
TO WORK...

...IT HAS
TO.

YES!
THE SPELL IS
WORKING.



HOW YOU DOIN',
A-WILD?

IT'S FINALLY WORKING, MARIAH.
SPREAD THE WORD--WE ARE OPEN
FOR BUSINESS...AND SELLING
REDEMPTION.



AND WHILE
WE'RE AT IT, TIME
TO TOTALLY MOVE OUR
BASE OF OPERATIONS
AGAIN.

TOO MANY
PEOPLE ARE LOOKING
FOR US, AND WE WOULDN'T
WANT TO GET FOUND
NOW.

NOW.

I DON'T
GET IT! HE'S NOT
HERE--ALEX WILDER
ISN'T HERE!

SEEMS
TO ME LIKE YOU
GET IT JUST FINE--
DUDE ISN'T
HERE.

HE'S A
CLEVER ONE--ALWAYS
CHANGING LOCATIONS
BEFORE WE CAN
CATCH HIM.

SEÑOR MÁGICO.

MEANWHILE, WE
KEEP CLEANING UP
HIS MESSSES.

AND THIS KID KNOWS
HOW TO LEAVE
A MESS.

ALWAYS
A MASTER OF THE
UNDERSTATEMENT, AMIGO...

...FOR THIS
IS MORE THAN
A MESS!

YOU CAN SAY
THAT AGAIN!



I'VE NEVER SEEN A DRUG MAKE PEOPLE THIS CRAZY!

IT'S LIKE 28 DAYS LATER UP IN HERE!

I KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE!



OKAY...



THEN DO IT!



SFXHPI



WHATEVER YOU'RE DOIN'...

...IT AIN'T WORKIN'!



WAIT! THEY'RE WEAKENING...

...SLOWING DOWN.



THERE--EL HECHIZO DEL ESTADO COMATOSE WILL HOLD THESE POOR SOULS IN CHECK.

"SPELL OF THE COMATOSE STATE"? YOU PUT THESE PEOPLE IN A COMA?

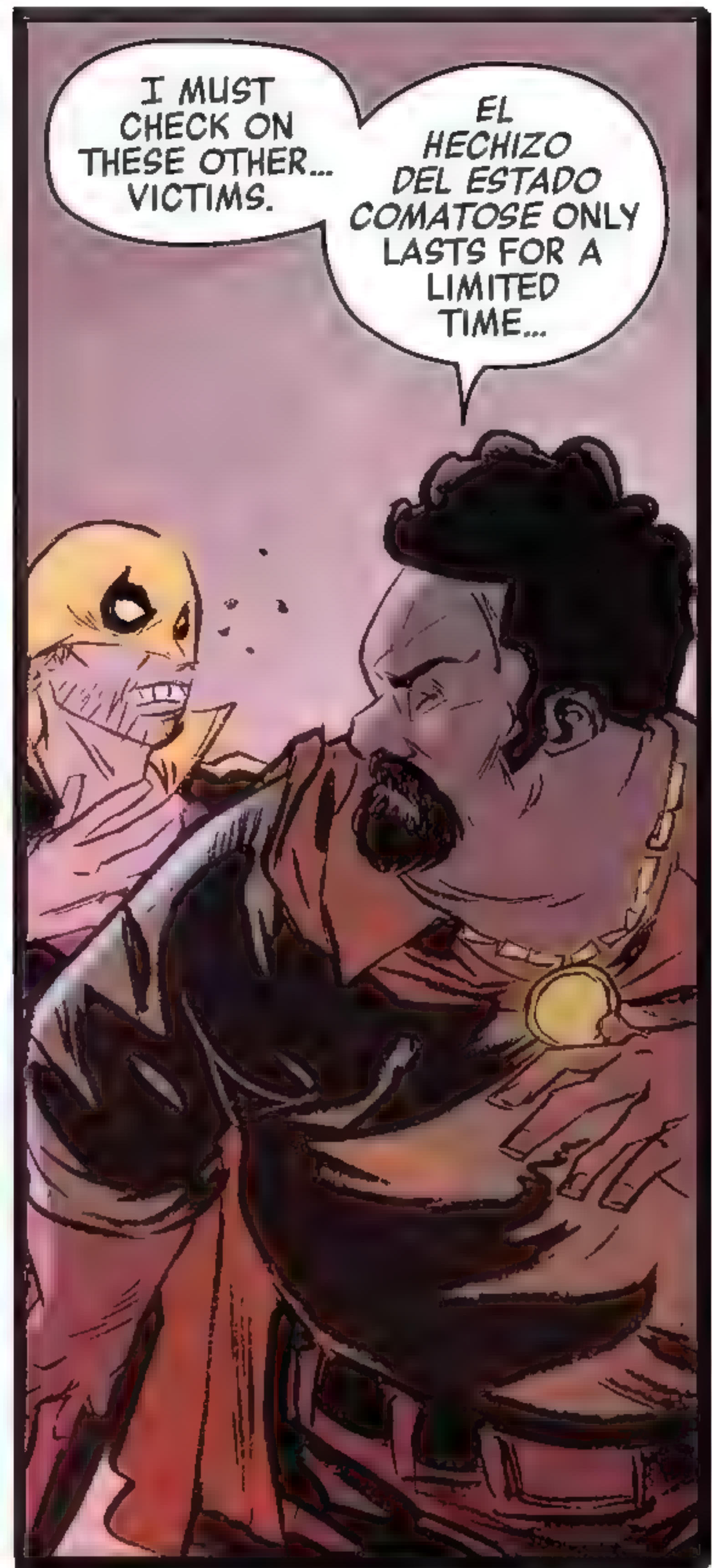
THE TRANSLATION MAKES IT SOUND WORSE THAN IT IS. TRUST ME.



YOU OKAY?

SI. I'M JUST NOT USED TO BEING A SUPER HERO.

YEAH, WELL, THIS ISN'T OUR PREFERRED BRAND OF ACTION--A LITTLE BIT TOO MUCH MAGIC AND MUMBO JUMBO.



I MUST CHECK ON THESE OTHER... VICTIMS.

EL HECHIZO DEL ESTADO COMATOSE ONLY LASTS FOR A LIMITED TIME...



...AND IT DOES NOT HEAL, IT ONLY SLOWS THE SPREAD OF THE POISON THEY HAVE INGESTED.



THERE'S JUST SO MANY OF THEM--MORE EVERY DAY. WE HAVE TO FIND ALEX WILDER AND STOP THE SUPPLY OF WHATEVER THIS DRUG IS HE'S PEDDLIN'.

THAT'S JUST IT--WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS DRUG IS, JUST THAT IT MAKES MGH LOOK LIKE CANDY.

WE CAN'T WASTE TIME TALKING. WE MUST GET THESE PEOPLE TO THE CLINIC.

THE CLINIC.

MORE OF THEM? YOU BROUGHT MORE OF THEM HERE?

I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND...

...THIS IS BEYOND MY CAPACITY TO DEAL WITH--EVEN WITH THE EXTRA HELP. THIS IS NOT WHAT I NORMALLY DO.

LINDA CARTER
(A.K.A. NIGHT NURSE.)

WE KNOW THIS. AND WE WOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT ANY OF THEM HERE, EXCEPT...

EXCEPT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO?

WE'RE DEALING WITH AN EPIDEMIC AND YOU'RE BRINGING ME PLENTY OF PATIENTS...

YOU MAKE US SOUND SO DEMANDING.

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE DEMANDING.

SO YOU BRING A BUNCH OF JUNKIES STRUNG OUT ON WHO-KNOWS--WHAT TO ME SO I CAN HELP THEM GET CLEAN...

...BUT NO CURE.

AND AS IF THAT'S NOT BAD ENOUGH...



...I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY KIND OF DRUG LIKE THIS BEFORE.

WHAT ARE THESE PEOPLE ON?

WE DON'T KNOW.



IT'S SOMETHING NEW--WE'RE SURE OF THAT.

THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING THIS CRAP ON THE STREETS IS MAKING A PLAY--TRYING TO MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF.



YOU DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND--I'VE TREATED EVERY KIND OF JUNKIE ON EVERY KIND OF DRUG, FROM PCP TO MGH. I'VE SEEN IT ALL.

AND I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE. THIS--WHATEVER THIS IS--IS NOT LIKE ANY OTHER DRUG.

SHE'S CORRECT...



...THERE ARE TRACES OF MAGIC IN ALL OF THESE PATIENTS. I DON'T KNOW WHY I DIDN'T THINK TO CHECK FOR THIS SOONER.

WHATEVER IT IS THEY HAVE BEEN TAKING--THIS DRUG, IT IS SUPERNATURAL. AND I THINK... WELL...



...I THINK IT IS POSSESSING THEIR SOULS.

A DRUG THAT POSSESSES YOUR SOUL? THIS JUST KEEPS GETTING WORSE AND WORSE.

YEAH, BUT I THINK I KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO HELP WITH THIS.

**ALEX WILDER'S CURRENT
BASE OF OPERATIONS.**

KEEP
THE LINE
MOVIN'...

...WE'VE
GOT A BUSINESS
TO RUN...

...PRODUCT
TO SELL...

...AND MONEY
TO EARN. LET'S SEE
THAT PAPER, SWEET
THING.

YOU GOT IT,
MISS MARIAH. FOLKS
CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF
THIS...WHAT YOU CALL
IT..."REDEMPTION"?

THAT'S RIGHT, SWEET
THING. REDEMPTION.

NOW, YOU
ONE OF OUR BEST
MOVERS--I WANT YOU
TO EXPAND YOUR
OPERATION.

I'M TRUSTING
YOU WITH MORE
PRODUCT THAN USUAL...

...AND
I KNOW YOU
GONNA BRING BACK
MORE OF THAT
PAPER THAN
USUAL.



I'M TELLING YOU--I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT ALL OF THIS, MARIAH.

JENNIE, WE LUCK INTO THE BEST POSSIBLE SITUATION AND YOU GOT A "BAD FEELIN'?"

YOU TRIPPIN', BOO-BOO.



THIS MAY NOT BE AS GOOD AS RUNNIN' OUR OWN HUSTLE, BUT IT'S ALMOST AS GOOD.

A-WILD IS TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS...

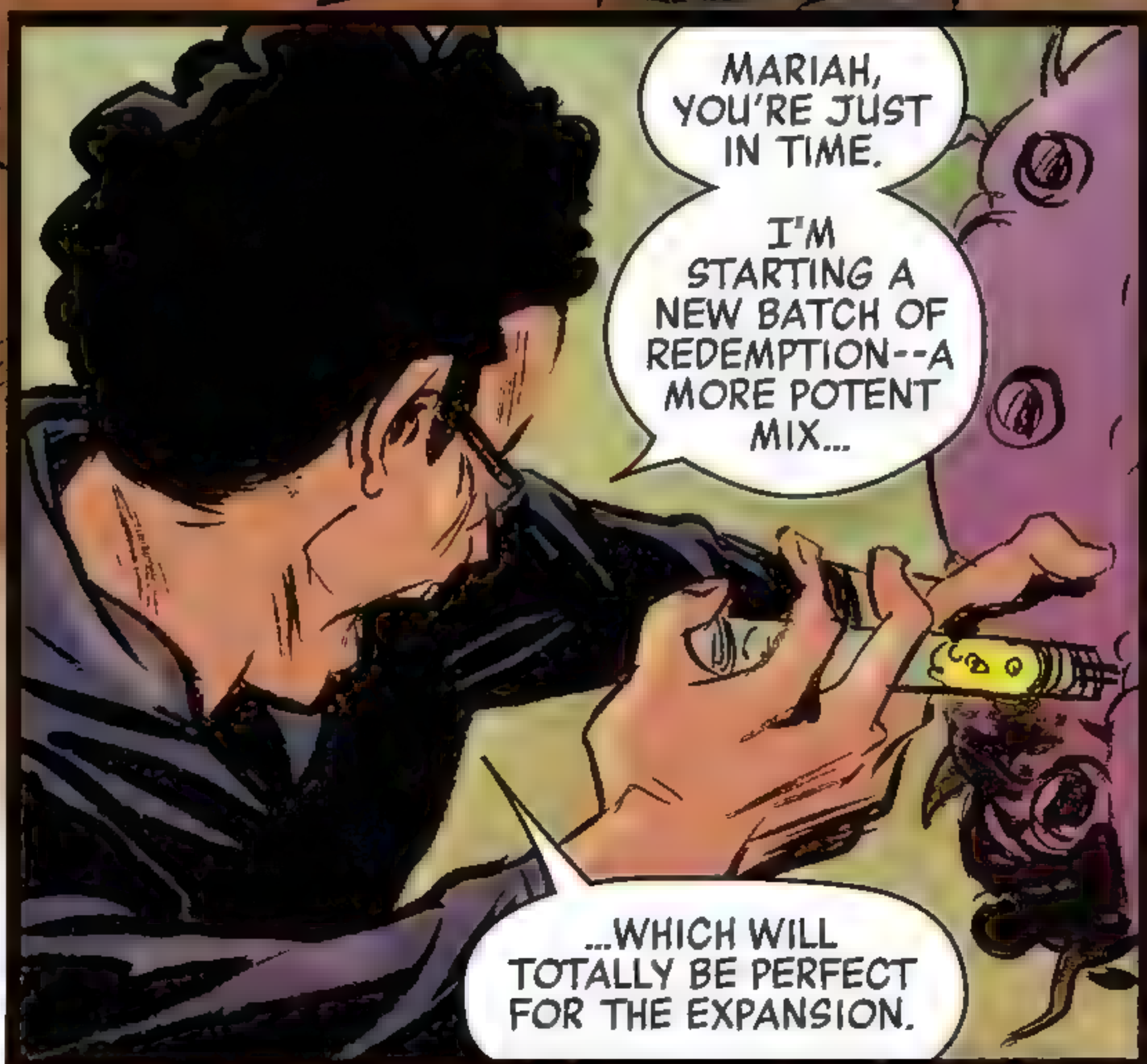


...AND WITH THE PRODUCT HE'S PRODUCING, HE'S ABOUT TO BE RUNNING THIS TOWN.

JUST NEED...A LITTLE...OF YOUR BLOOD...



CAN'T ASK FOR MUCH BETTER THAN THAT.



MARIAH, YOU'RE JUST IN TIME.

I'M STARTING A NEW BATCH OF REDEMPTION--A MORE POTENT MIX...

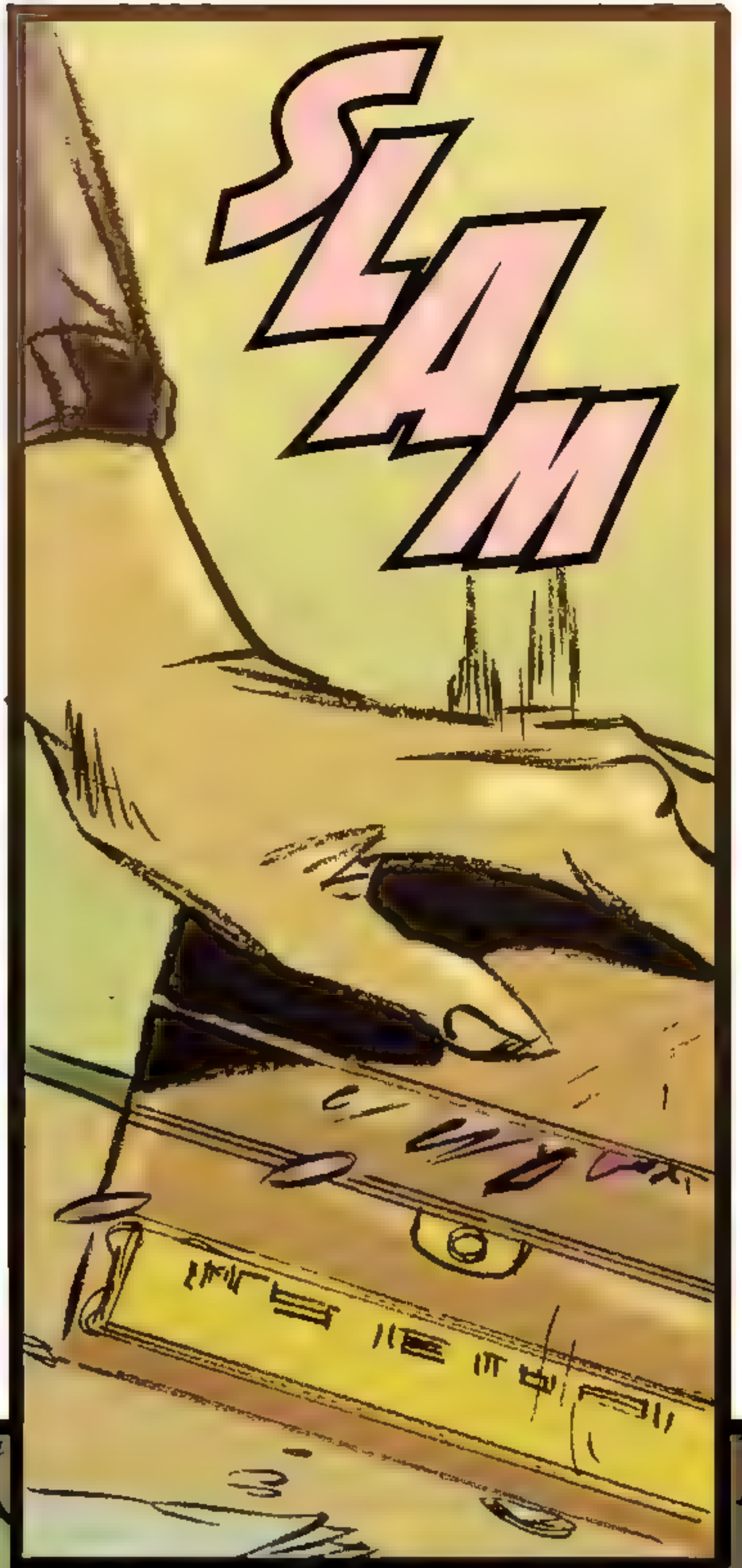
...WHICH WILL TOTALLY BE PERFECT FOR THE EXPANSION.



GET
BACK IN
THERE.



I SAID,
GET BACK IN
THE BOX!



SLAM



WITH THIS,
WE'LL TOTALLY
CHANGE THE GAME.
NO ONE ELSE CAN
OFFER WHAT
WE HAVE.

AND
THAT WILL MAKE
THE NEW PRIDE THE
BIGGEST OPERATION
IN THE CITY...

...BECAUSE
AT THE END OF
THE DAY, PEOPLE WILL
GIVE UP THEIR SOULS
FOR THE REDEMPTION
WE'RE SELLING.



WE WOULDN'T BE EXPANDING IF
IT WEREN'T FOR ALL THE HARD
WORK YOU'VE BEEN
PUTTING IN.

SO...THANK
YOU.

I OWE
EVERYTHING
TO YOU,
MARIAH.

"YES, I HAVE HEARD
OF ALEX WILDER..."

JERICO DRUMM

(A.K.A. DOCTOR VODOO.)

...RUMOR HAS IT HE BROKERED A DEAL TO GET OUT OF HELL, WHICH IS NOT EASY TO DO.

I UNDERSTAND HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE VIOLENCE THAT HAS BEEN RAVAGING HARLEM.

MORE THAN THAT. HE'S SET UP SHOP, MOVING SOME KIND OF DRUG NO ONE'S EVER SEEN BEFORE.

SEÑOR MÁGICO SEEMS TO THINK THE DRUG HAS SOME KIND OF SUPERNATURAL ELEMENT--

--SAYS THE USERS SHOW MORE SIGNS OF POSSESSION THAN ADDICTION.

SIGNS OF POSSESSION, YOU SAY?

I WONDER IF...

NO, IT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE.

WHAT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE?

DAEMONIUM DE REDEMPTIONEM--THE DEMON OF REDEMPTION--THE RAREST OF DEMONS FROM THE REALM OF THE DAMNED.

LEGEND HAS IT THE CREATURE'S BLOOD CAN BE USED TO EASE THE SUFFERING OF THOSE CONDEMNED TO HELL--LIKE A NARCOTIC.

YOU THINK THE DRUG ALEX WILDER IS SELLING IS ACTUALLY DEMON BLOOD?

IF IT IS TRUE THAT ALEX BROKERED A DEAL TO GET OUT OF HELL, HE WOULD HAVE TO OFFER SOMETHING IN RETURN.

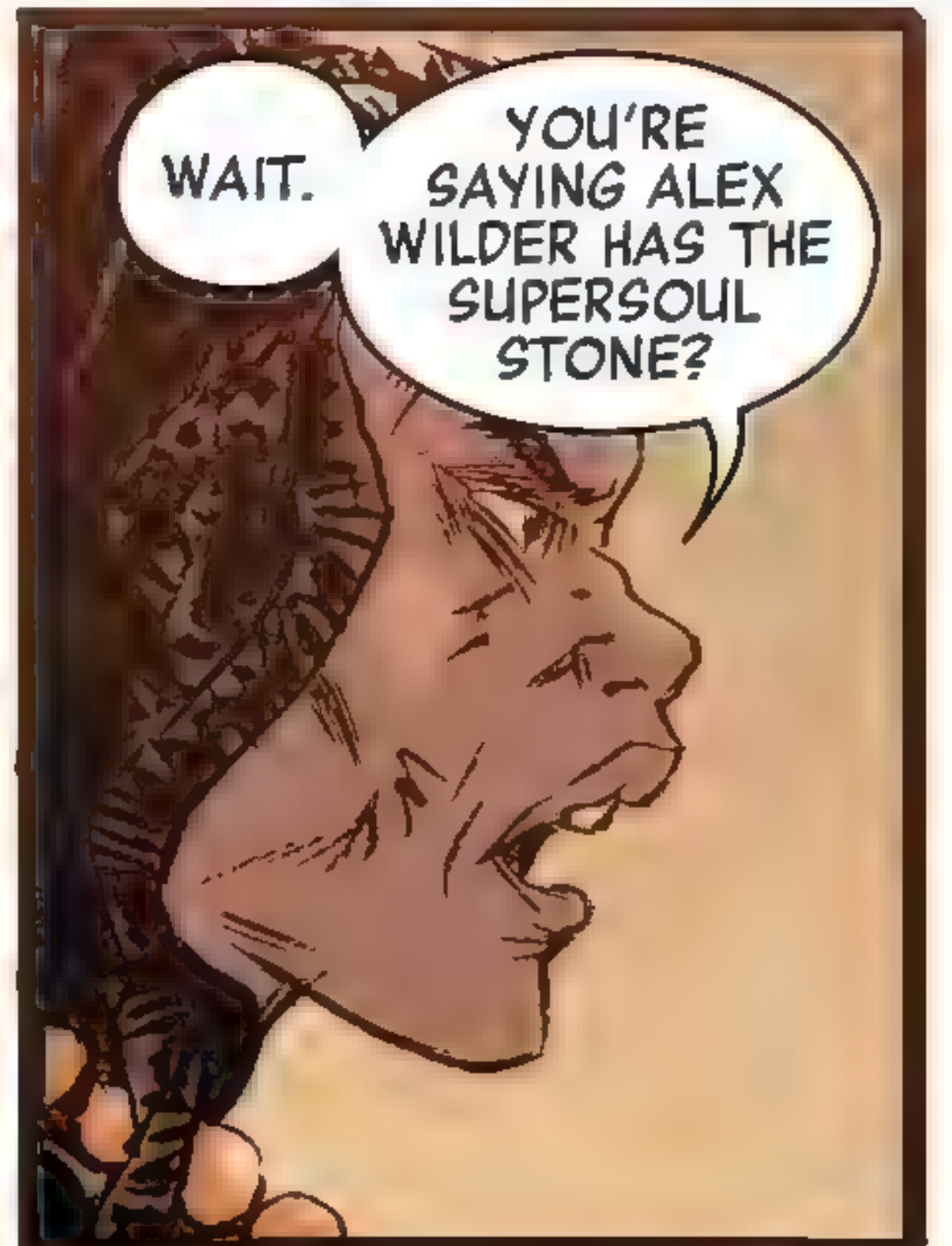
THE BLOOD OF DAEMONIUM DE REDEMPTIONEM WOULD HAVE A DIFFERENT EFFECT ON THE LIVING THAN THOSE IN DAMNATION. IT WOULD LOOK LIKE POSSESSION, AND IN TIME, IT WOULD BECOME JUST THAT.

STILL, I DON'T KNOW HOW ANYONE COULD CAPTURE SUCH A DEMON.



MAN, THE MORE I LEARN ABOUT ALEX WILDER, THE MORE I HATE HIM. FIRST, HE DESTROYS LIVES WITH THAT CONTRAPTION OF HIS, AND NOW HE'S PUSHING DOPE MADE OF DEMONIC BLOOD.

DON'T FORGET ALL THE FIDDLE-FADDLE WITH THE SUPERSOUL STONE.



WAIT.

YOU'RE SAYING ALEX WILDER HAS THE SUPERSOUL STONE?



HE ATTACKED MÁGICO--STOLE THE STONE AND OTHER THINGS-- A WALKING STICK, SOME KIND OF BOX.

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HE TOOK OR WHY.



DAMN.

THE YOUNG FOOL IS ACTUALLY TRYING TO DO IT.



THIS THING HE'S TRYING TO DO IS...BAD?

YEAH, LIKE...UM...WHAT ARE WE DEALING WITH?



STREET MAGIC.

ALEX WILDER IS TRYING TO BECOME THE GRANDMASTER OF STREET MAGIC.

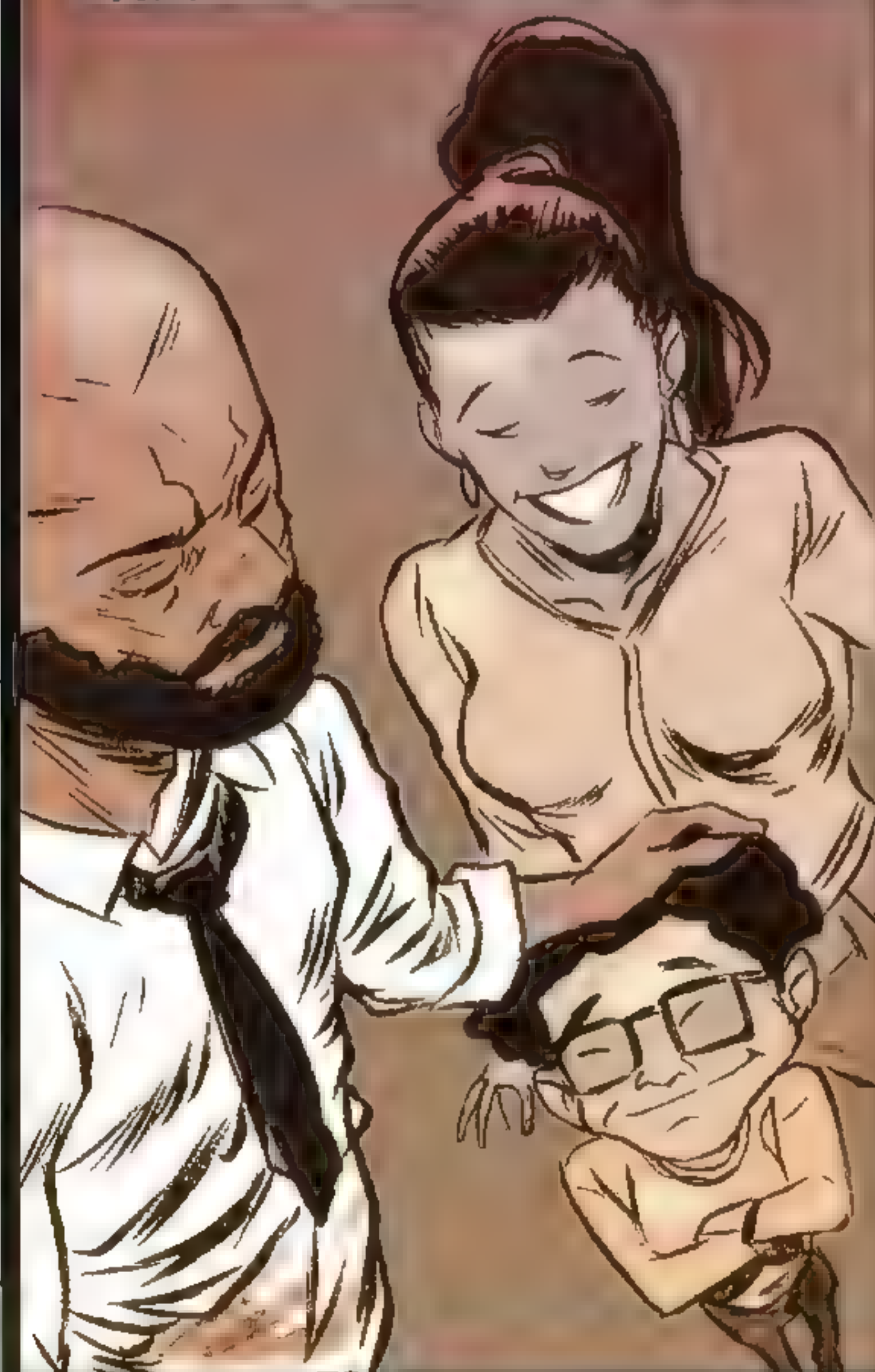




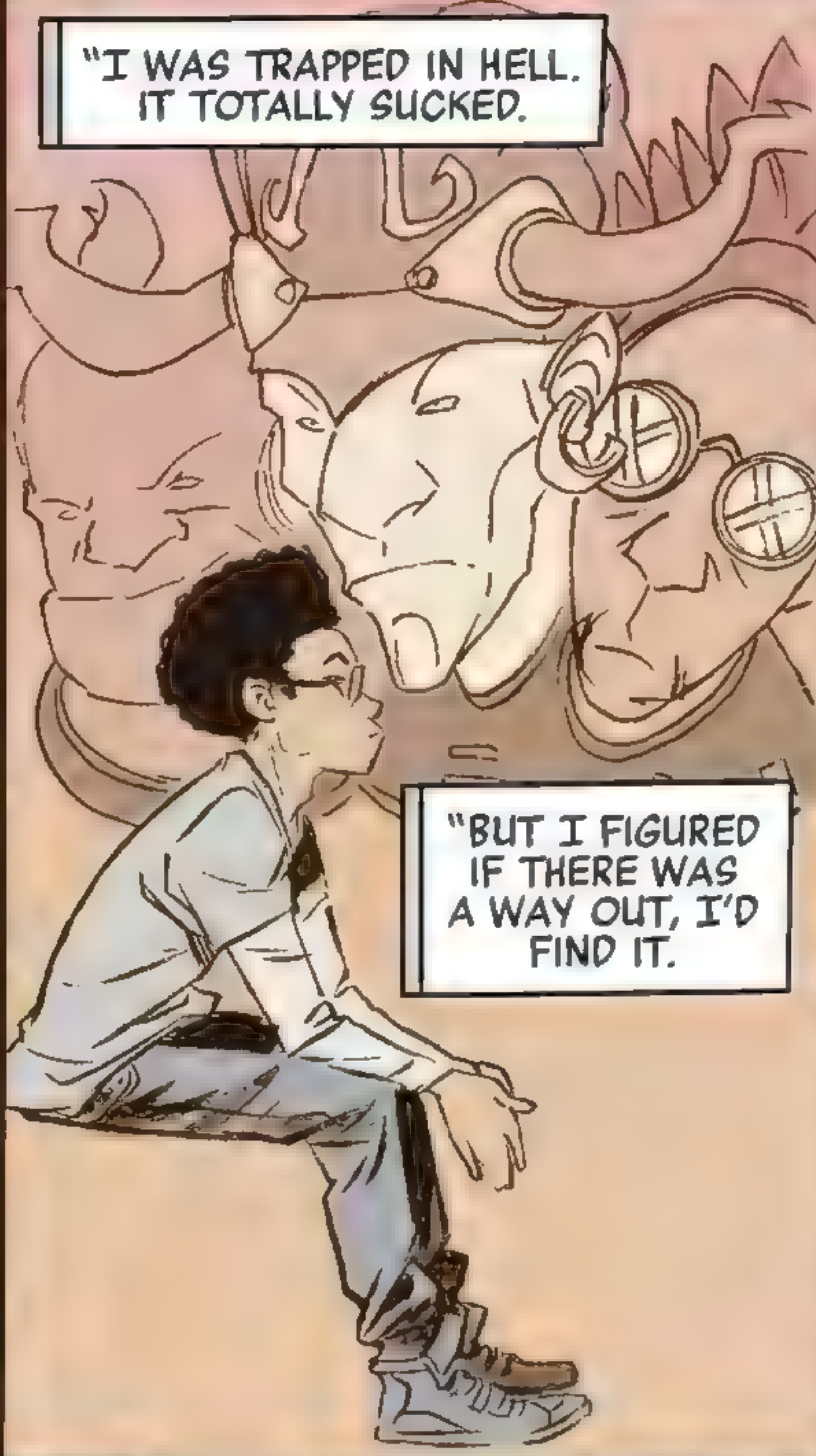
IT'S FINALLY
HAPPENING. IT'S ALL
TOTALLY COMING
TOGETHER.

MOM AND
DAD...

"...THEY'D BE SO PROUD OF
WHAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO--
HOW I'VE HONORED THEIR LEGACY,
AND BUILT UPON IT.



"I WAS TRAPPED IN HELL.
IT TOTALLY SUCKED.



"BUT I FIGURED
IF THERE WAS
A WAY OUT, I'D
FIND IT.

"SO I LISTENED AND LEARNED
UNTIL I KNEW WHAT NEEDED
TO BE DONE.

"I COULD GET OUT OF
HELL, I COULD RETURN TO
EARTH, AND I COULD HAVE IT
ALL--POWER, MONEY, AND
MOST IMPORTANTLY..."



...I WILL
STEAL THE SOULS
OF MILLIONS.

YOU
TALKIN' TO
YO'SELF AGAIN,
BOY...



...FOLKS
GONNA THINK
YOU CRAZY OR
SOMETHING.

I DON'T
CARE WHAT PEOPLE
THINK.

...WE BOTH
GOT BIG PLANS, BUT
AIN'T NOTHIN' GETTIN'
DONE IF YOU GO CRAZY
LIKE ALL THE
OTHERS.

YOU
HEAR ME,
BOY?

YOU SAY
THAT NOW--BUT
JUST WAIT. FOLKS ALWAYS
TURN ON THE GRANDMASTER
OF STREET MAGIC.
ALWAYS.

NOW, YOU LISTEN
TO OLD CHADDE, BOY...

I HEAR
YOU. AND I'M
FINE.

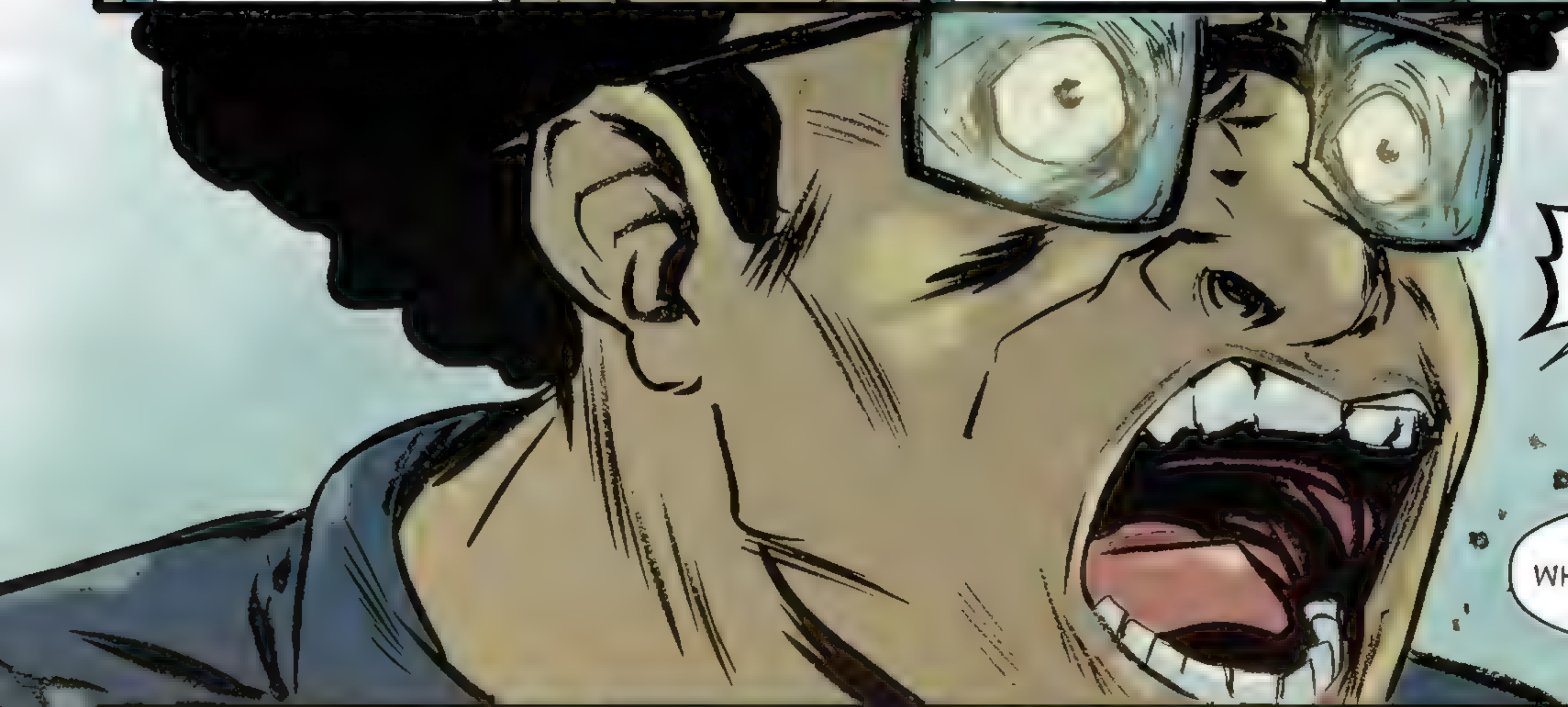
YOU GAVE
ME THE STRENGTH
I NEEDED TO CAPTURE
THE DAEMONIUM DE
REDEMPTIONEM AND THE
MAGICAL SPELLS TO
EXTRACT ITS
BLOOD.

AND YOU
SET ME FREE. BUT
YOU NEED TO LISTEN--
THE MAGIC I'M BRINGIN',
IT TAKES A TOLL, BOY...

...PLUS YOU
GOT THAT DEAL
YOU MADE WITH
THE DEVIL
HIMSELF.

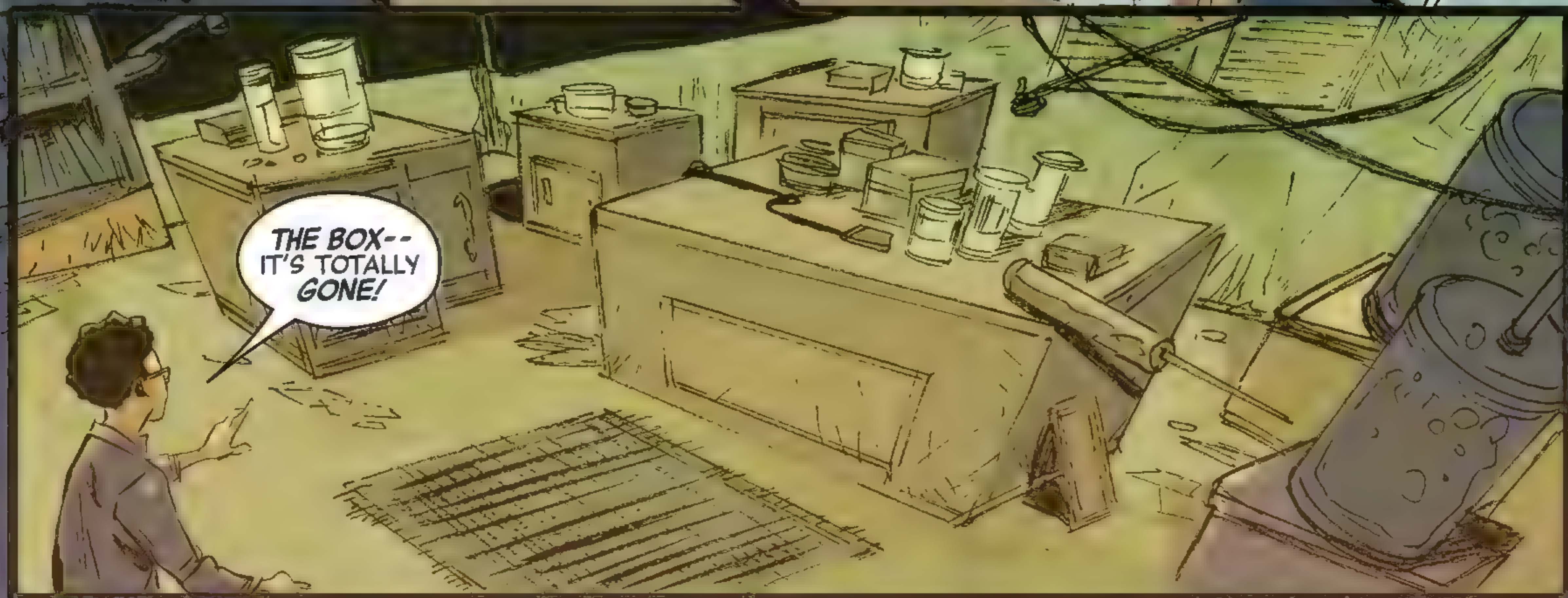
EVERYTHING'S
GOING AS
PLANNED.

SOON,
I'LL BE ABLE
TO TOTALLY MASS-
PRODUCE THE BLOOD
OF THE DAEMONIUM
DE REDEMPTIONEM,
AND FROM
HERE...

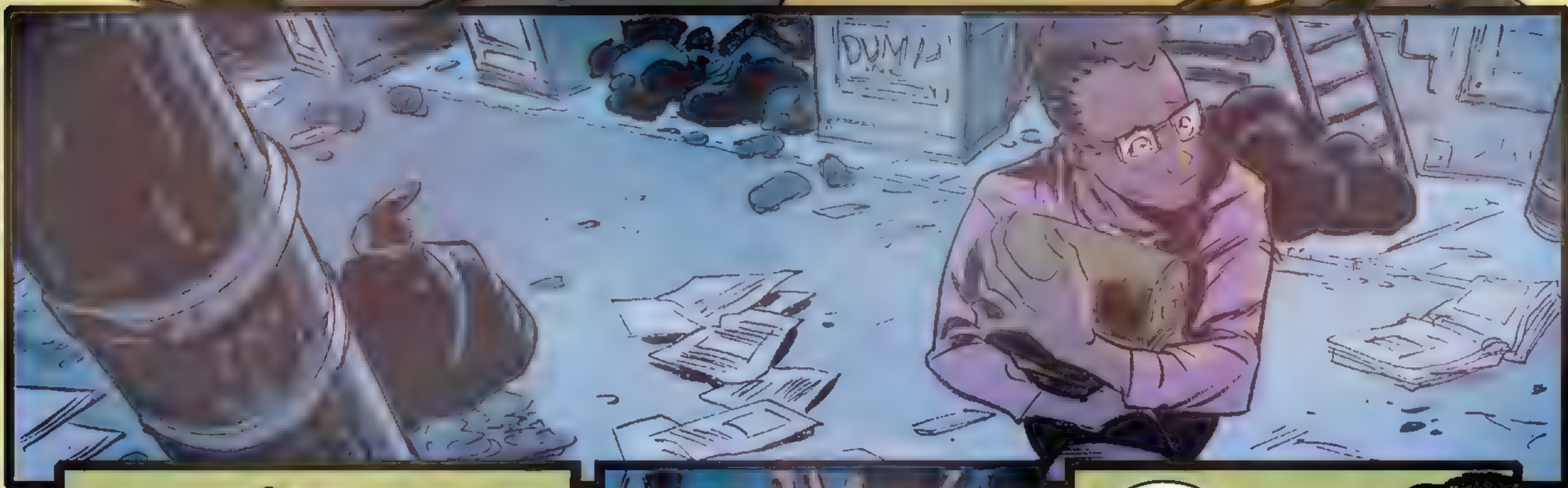


OH, NO!
\$#@%!

WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG,
BOY?



THE BOX--
IT'S TOTALLY
GONE!



WHAT'S
THE PROBLEM,
A-WILD?

THE
BOX!

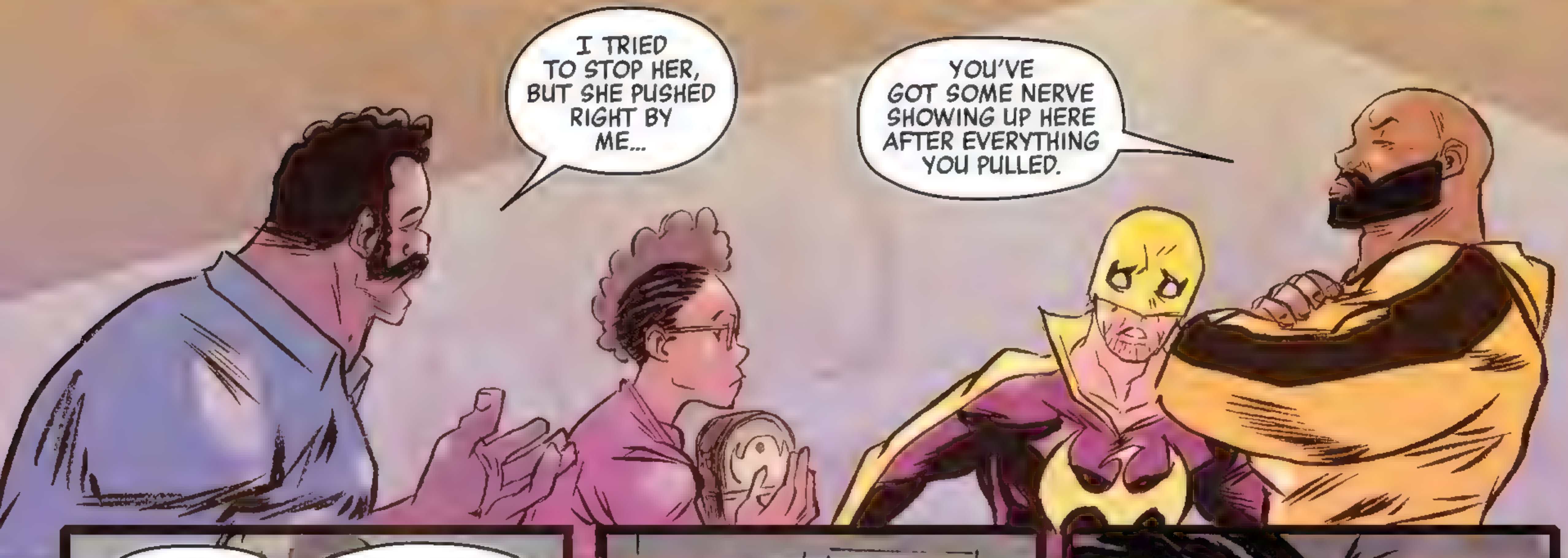


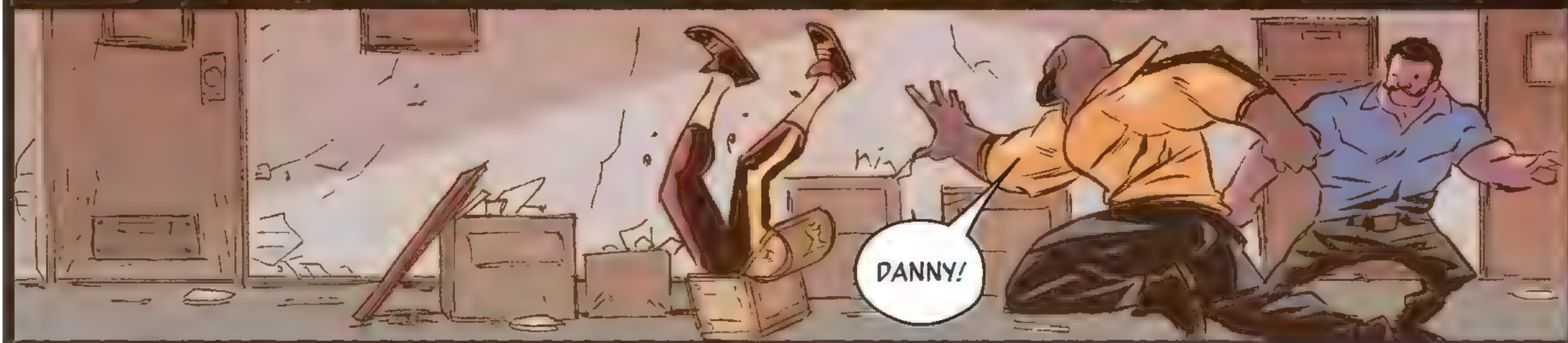
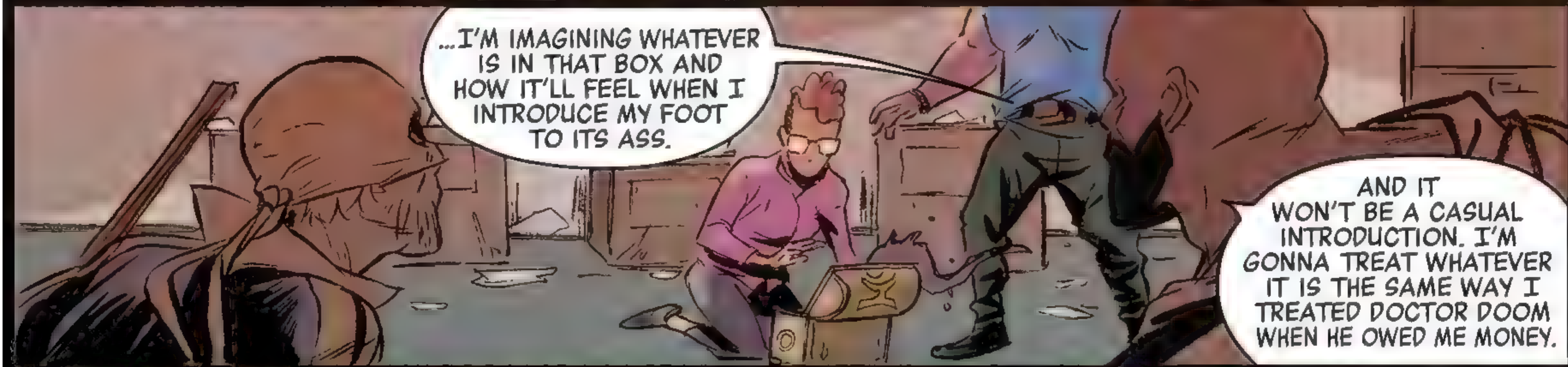
"SOMEONE
STOLE THE
BOX!"



S'OKAY,
A-WILD.

WE'LL FIGURE
OUT WHAT HAPPENED--
YOU KNOW THAT I'VE GOT
YOUR BACK. AND THAT
MEANS NO MATTER
WHAT...







SWEET
CHRISTMAS!

TO BE CONTINUED...

LUKE LETTERS & DANNY DIATRIBES

YO, PMIFers!

How about that last page, huh?! I don't know WHAT'S going to happen! (That's a lie, I totally know, and it is AWESOME. But YOU'LL just have to wait until next month to find out!) We're under the wire and buried in snow here at Marvel HQ, so a quick letters column from our esteemed scribe and then...hot chocolate! Take it away, David!

Hello guys,

I'm Aleixander Maita, and I need to say that POWER MAN AND IRON FIST is one of my favorite Marvel series because they actually are amazing friends and amazing heroes. I'm from Venezuela and it's so hard to find comics here because my country does not have this wonderful comic culture, but I always try to find them--especially this series. You are incredible, guys. Bring comics here this year! There're a lot of fans here waiting for comics of the Earth's mightiest super heroes.

Aleixander

I'm sorry comics are so hard to find in Venezuela. That would drive me crazy. Thankfully, you found our little book, and the fact that you took the time to write to us means a lot. We also appreciate the praise, but it is you and readers like you who are incredible. This is why we do what we do.

Hey,

"What happened to you, man? You used to be beautiful." Samuel L. Jackson says this to De Niro just before he shoots him in Tarantino's *Jackie Brown*,

which is faithfully based on the unequaled crime writer Elmore Leonard's *Rum Punch*. I claim my No-Prize.

I love this book's pop culture references and indie cool. It's great that David F. Walker takes the time to respond to readers' letters.

Cheers,
Bruce Marsh QNS
Newbury Park
England

I thought a No-Prize was only meant for mistakes, not for intentional references. Either way, I'm glad you caught it. That moment between Ordell and Louis is something that always stuck with me, and it speaks to the complexity of the relationship amongst thieves, which is what I wanted to convey.

This is just a quick note to say how much I am enjoying POWER MAN AND IRON FIST. The original series was out just a couple of years before I started my comics-collecting days. I discovered the first run mainly through the MARVEL ESSENTIALS compilations and the occasional back issue here and there. I have always enjoyed the idea of a "buddy" comic and wished someone would one day attempt it again.

So when Marvel announced this new series a year ago, I felt obligated to give it a try. Twelve issues into it, I am still hooked. Sanford Greene's art style is a little quirky but seems to fit perfectly with the tone of the book. David F. Walker's writing provides just the right amount of action and humor and makes even the most obscure third-

string character entertaining.

I look forward to seeing what other villains these two bring back from the past in upcoming issues. Thanks again for an entertaining read.

Make Mine Marvel,
Daniel Florence
Kentucky

Thank you for sticking with us this long. The entire PMIF team puts so much of their hearts and souls into this book, and it is nice to know that we're connecting with folks.

I couldn't have said it better myself. Thanks, David!

Well, folks, the hot chocolate beckons. We'll see you next month for an issue you will not want to miss! Mark your calendars, tell your local comic shop to hold your copy, set up a reading party with your friends and relatives, have the cover tattooed on your body *Memento*-style. POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #15 is coming...



Stay Weird!

-Jake T.

WALKER • GREENE • LOUGHRIDGE

MARVEL

015



SANFORD
2016

Orphan Daniel Rand earned the power of the Iron Fist in the mystical city of K'un-Lun. As an adult, Danny oversees the Rand Corporation and moonlights as Iron Fist: kung fu defender of the innocent.

Prisoner Luke Cage was subjected to experiments that gave him superhuman strength and durability. As Power Man, he's been a hero and an Avenger, and now a husband and father.

After years apart, they're back together as Heroes for Hire.

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST



Alex Wilder escaped Hell by making a deal with the spirit of a magician named Chadoe. Alex and Chadoe began a turf war in Harlem, ruining—and sometimes ending—lives. While Power Man and Iron Fist tried to save the city, Tombstone resurrected one of Alex's victims, Mr. Fish, in a quest for revenge against anyone who stood in their way. Black Mariah and Jennie Royce worked with Alex to push a drug made by the blood of a demon, *Daemonium de Redemptionem*, that steals its users' souls. Jennie got cold feet and ran with the demon's mystical container to the Heroes for Hire office, but before the heroes even knew what was happening, the demon pulled Jennie, Luke, and Danny into its hellish dimension!

DAVID F. WALKER
writer

SANFORD GREENE
artist

LEE LOUGHRIDGE
color artist

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
letterer & production

SANFORD GREENE
cover artist

KATHLEEN WISNESKI
asst. editor

JAKE THOMAS
editor

AXEL ALONSO
editor in chief

JOE QUESADA
chief creative officer

DAN BUCKLEY
president

ALAN FINE
exec. producer

THE LIBRARY OF DOCTOR VOODOO.

SEVERAL HOURS AGO...

MAYBE I SHOULD'N'T ASK--WHAT'S A GRANDMASTER OF STREET MAGIC?

YEAH, DOC--WHAT'RE WE UP AGAINST?

THE GRANDMASTER OF STREET MAGIC DATES BACK TO THE 1930s...

"...WHEN QUEENIE ST. CLAIR AND BUMPY JOHNSON WENT TO WAR WITH DUTCH SCHULTZ OVER CONTROL OF HARLEM.

"IT WAS A VIOLENT TIME, AND VIOLENT TIMES OFTEN LEAD TO RECKLESS ACTS."

"QUEENIE ENLISTED THE AID OF A MAN KNOWN ONLY AS CHADOE--A PRACTITIONER OF VODOO FROM SAN MONIQUE.

"SHE HOPED THAT CHADOE COULD USE HIS SKILLS AGAINST HER ENEMIES."

BUT CHADOE TOOK THINGS TOO FAR, BEYOND THE REALM OF VODOO AND INTO AREAS NO PRACTITIONER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS WOULD DARE VENTURE.

WHY DOES THIS SOUND LIKE A STORY THAT DOESN'T HAVE A HAPPY ENDING?

FOR REAL. IS THIS GONNA GIVE ME NIGHTMARES?

INDEED, FOR CHADOE IS THE EMBODIMENT OF A NIGHTMARE...

"...AND A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.

"HE SOUGHT TO CREATE HIS OWN FORM OF MAGIC--COMBINING VODOO, SPELLS STOLEN FROM THE BOOK OF ESHU, THE POISONS OF JINCAN GU, AND THE DARKEST OF DARK MAGICS.

"THE POWER OF THE MAGIC HE CREATED CONSUMED HIM, TRANSFORMING HIS PHYSICAL BODY INTO A TWISTED MONSTROSITY AND TRAPPING HIM IN A REALM OF DAMNATION.

"HE CAN ONLY SURVIVE IN *THIS* REALM WITHIN THE BODY OF A HOST."

YOU THINK ALEX WILDER IS PLAYING HOST TO CHADOE?

HE WOULD NOT BE THE FIRST TO TRY. BUT CHADOE IS POWERFUL...

...EVERY MORTAL THAT HAS SOUGHT TO BE THE GRANDMASTER OF STREET MAGIC HAS FAILED.

WELL, THAT SOUNDS PROMISING.

CAN IT BE STOPPED?

NO ONE HAS EVER STOPPED CHADOE BEFORE. THEY HAVE JUST CONTAINED HIM--TRAPPED HIM IN THE REALM OF THE DAMNED.

NOW!

HOLD ON!

I'M HOLDING ON!
YOU HOLD ON!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
YOU HOLD ON!

PLEASE-- DON'T LET GO!

IT'S... ARGH... TEARING ME APART!

LUKE-- WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

LIKE WHAT?!

WANT ME TO SWEAR AT IT?!

GOTTA DO SOMETHING FAST...



...CAN'T
HOLD ON MUCH
LONGER!

¡MIS
AMIGOS!

HOLD
ON! SEÑOR
MÁGICO IS
HERE TO
HELP!



BETTER
HURRY!

¡FEXN!



ZAZA
A
A
P

ROOON!



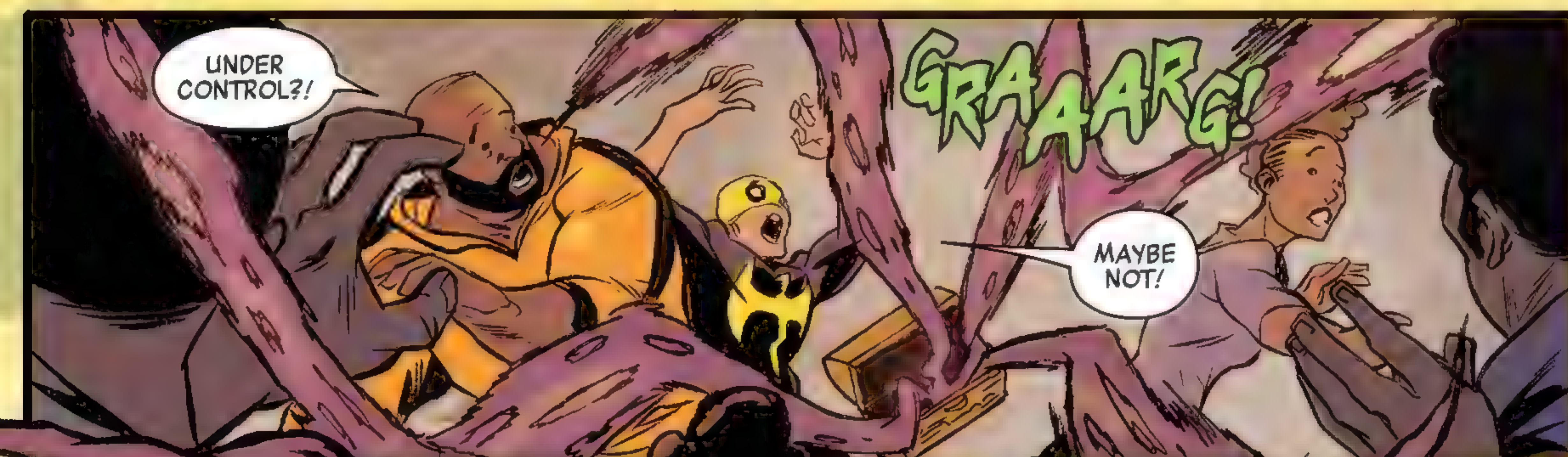
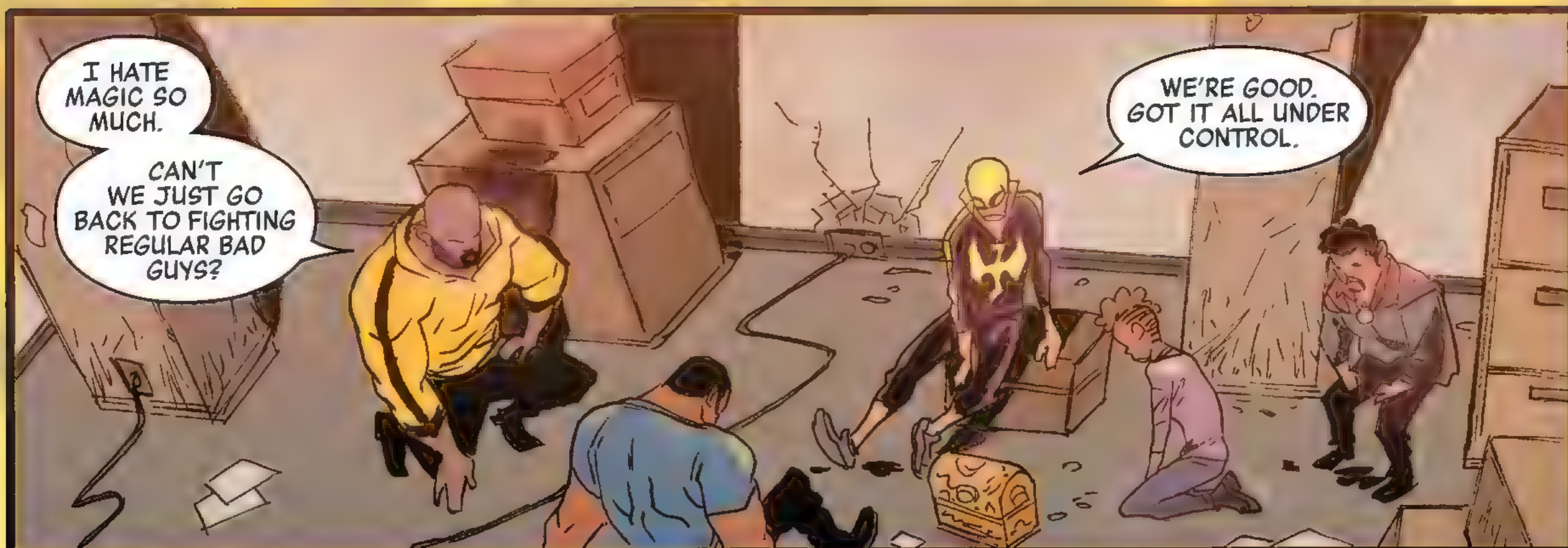
IT'S LET
GO!

PULL
US UP!



THAT'S
IT--WE GOT
YOU!

CLOSE IT
FAST--BEFORE
IT CHANGES ITS
MIND!





...DEAD
WRONG! RIGHT,
ALEX?

DEATH IS TOO
GOOD FOR THEM.
CHADOE AND I GOT
SOMETHING *SPECIAL*
PLANNED FOR ALL
OF YOU.

YOU AIN'T
KNOW THE
HALF OF IT,
BOY!



STAND BACK. THIS
TIME, I AM PREPARED FOR
HIS FOUL MAGIC.

MARIAH,
PLEASE--WE
HAVE TO STOP ALEX
BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE.



IT'S ALREADY
TOO LATE!

AFTER ALL
I'VE DONE FOR
YOU...THIS IS HOW
YOU REPAY
ME?!

QUIET,
WOMAN!

NOW
AIN'T THE TIME
FOR PETTY
SQUABBLES.



WHAT
THE #@%€
IS THAT?

THAT IS CHADOE--THE
GRANDMASTER OF
STREET MAGIC.

I'M SO
SORRY...

I WAS
AFRAID YOU'D
SAY THAT.

OKAY--AM
I THE ONLY ONE
FREAKIN' OUT?



WE WILL
FEED YOU ALL TO
THE DAEMONIUM DE
REDEMPTIONEM, WHOSE
BLOOD WILL MAKE
US RICH AND
POWERFUL.

I KNOW
JENNIE MESSED UP,
BETRAYIN' YOU AND ALL--
BUT SHE'S MY HOMEGIRL. WE
REALLY GOTTA FEED HER TO
THAT DEMON OF
YOURS?



HOW ARE
WE GOING TO STOP
THIS THING?

BROTHER VOODOO SAID WE HAVE
TO TRAP IT IN THE REALM OF
THE DAMNED.

OKAY.
SO HOW DO WE
DO THAT?

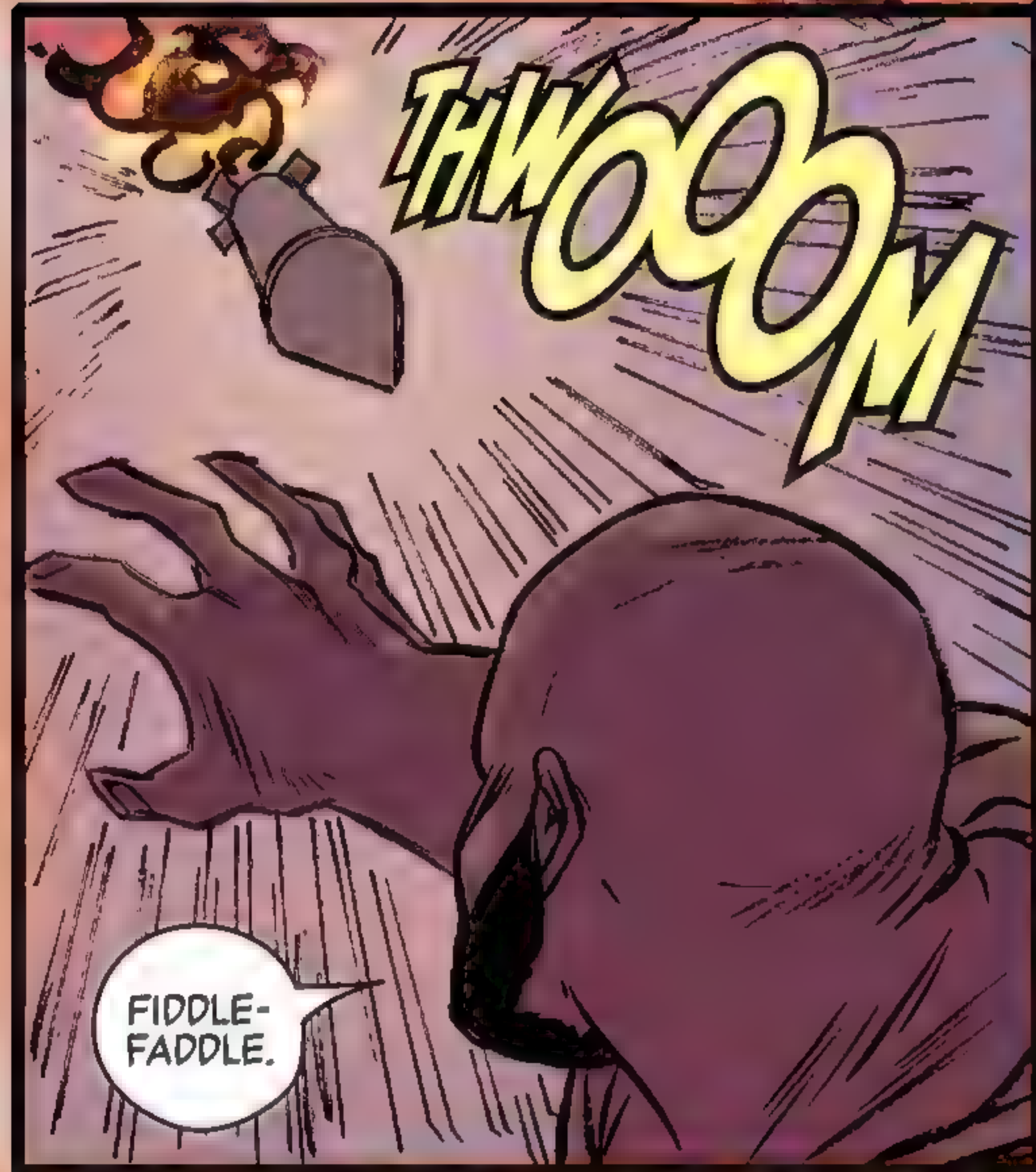


LOOKS LIKE
WE BOTH HIT THE
JACKPOT...



...I CAN TAKE
CARE OF THAT PUNK,
ALEX WILDER, AND YOU
CAN SETTLE YOUR SCORES.

SOUNDS
LIKE A
PLAN.





HATE TO STATE THE OBVIOUS-- BUT WE'VE GOT TROUBLE.

MY GUESS...

LUKE, WHAT'S GOING ON?!



...ALL HELL'S BREAKIN' LOOSE.



HEY, PUNK!

NOBODY MESSSES WITH MR. FISH!



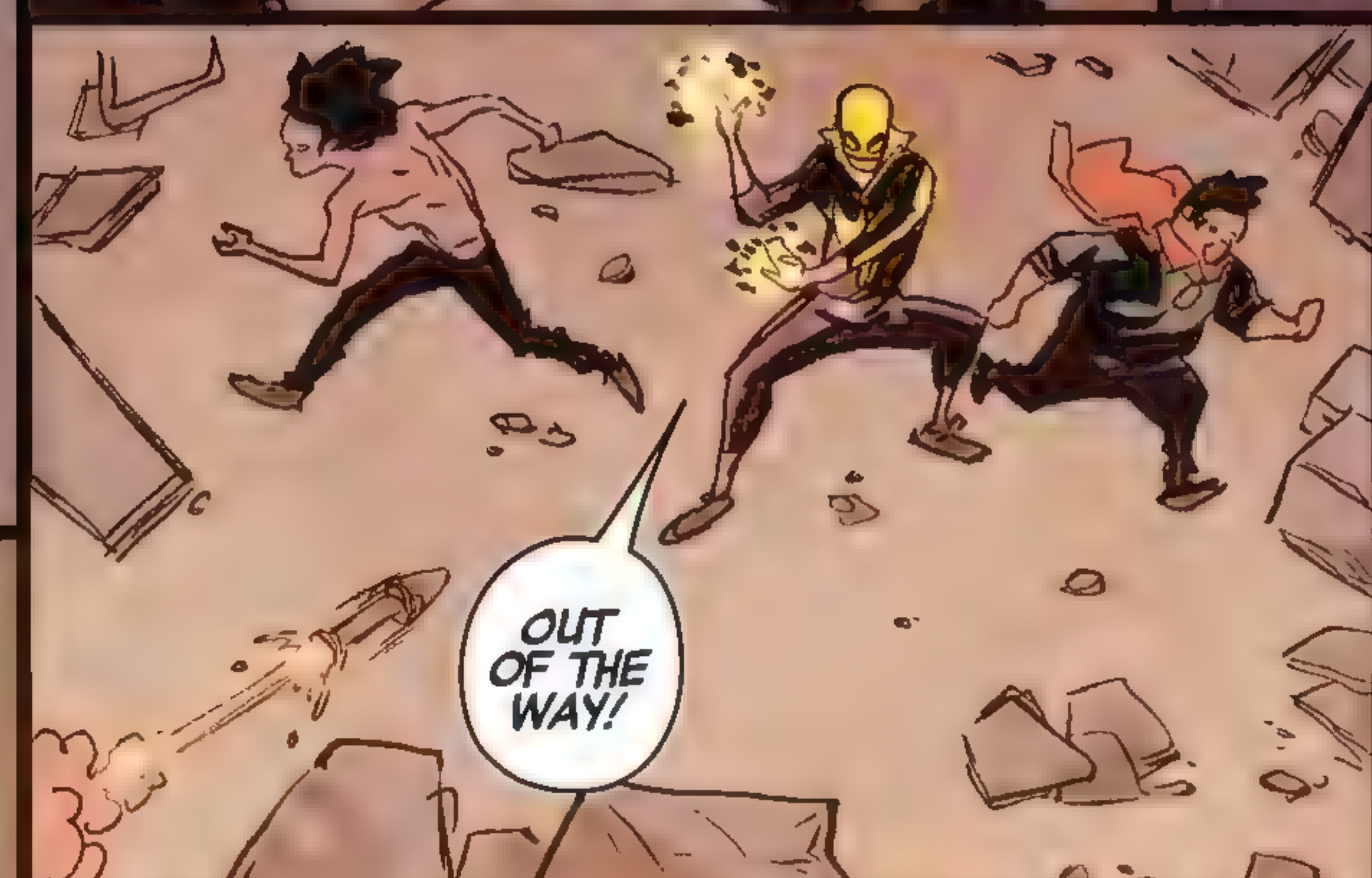
YOU?!

I KILLED YOU! I SENT YOU TO HELL!

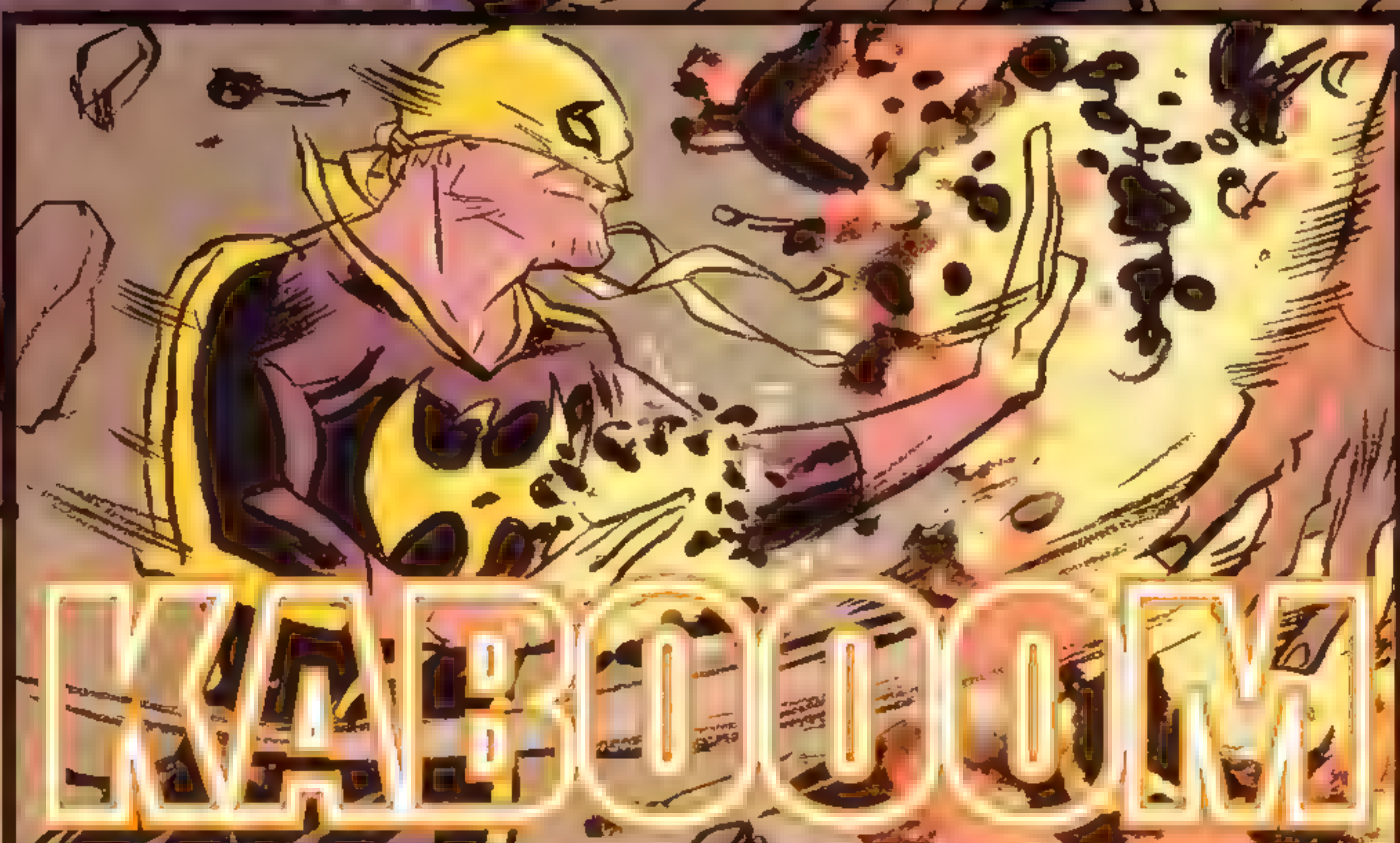
UM...HE HAS A ROCKET LAUNCHER.



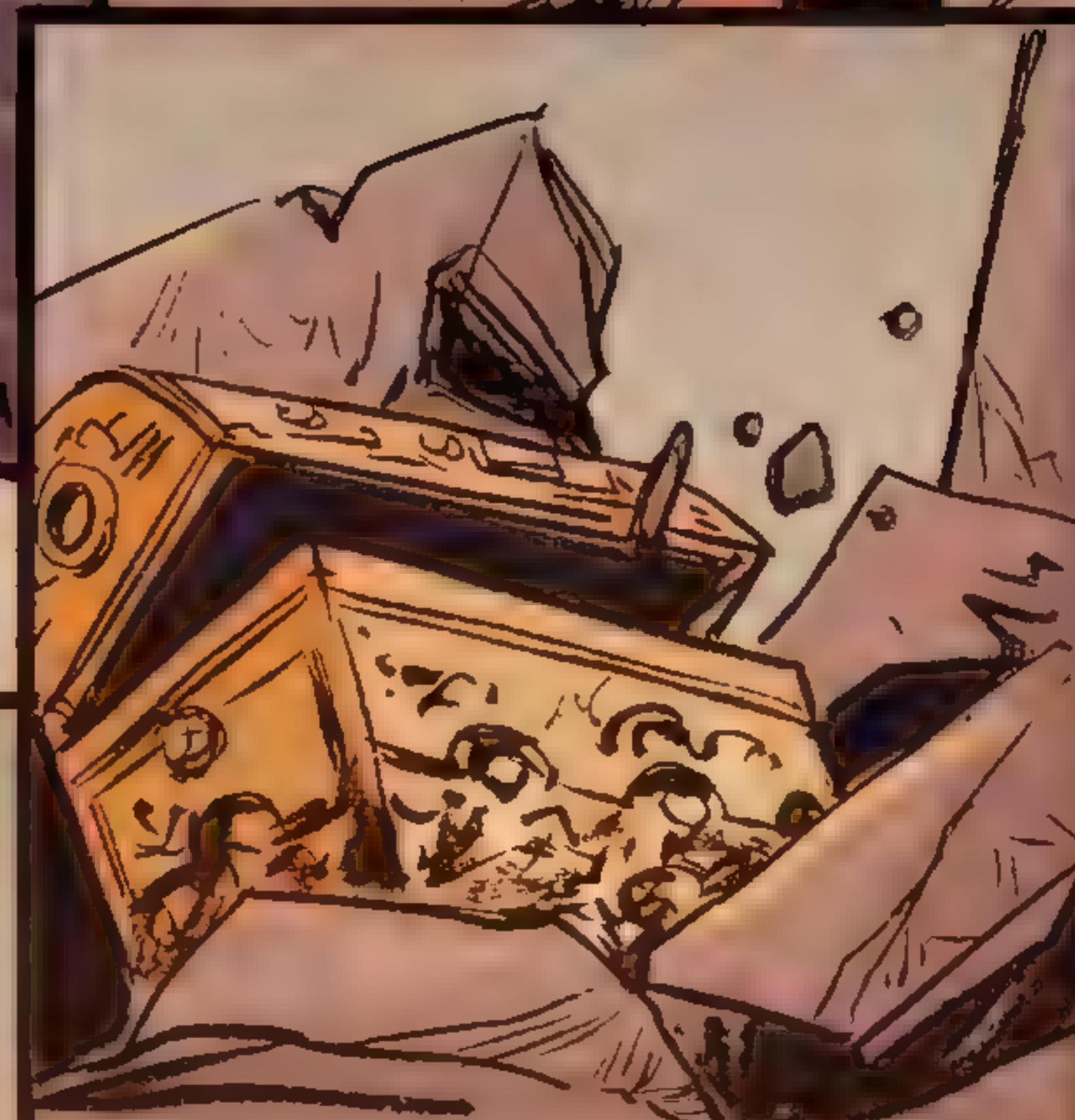
WELL, NOW I'M BACK.



OUT OF THE WAY!



KABOOOM



SEÑOR MÁGICO?!



OW, MY HEAD...

...A-WILD, WHAT'S HAPPENING?



YOU DARE TO ATTACK US?!

I'LL KILL YOU AGAIN!



ALEX IS OUT OF CONTROL-- CHADOE HAS TAKEN OVER.

CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ABOUT TO SAY THIS...



...BUT WE GOTTA SAVE MR. FISH.

OH, CRAP. THIS KEEPS GETTING WORSE.





YOU'RE ALL DEAD!

THIS WAY--
C'MON.

WE CAN'T
LEAVE THE
OTHERS.

END OF
THE LINE
FOR YOU,
HEIFER.

YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU CAN
KISS, YOU UGLY-
ASS FREAK.

WHAT
THE...?!

GET AWAY FROM
HER!

GET
OFF ME!

SLAAAM

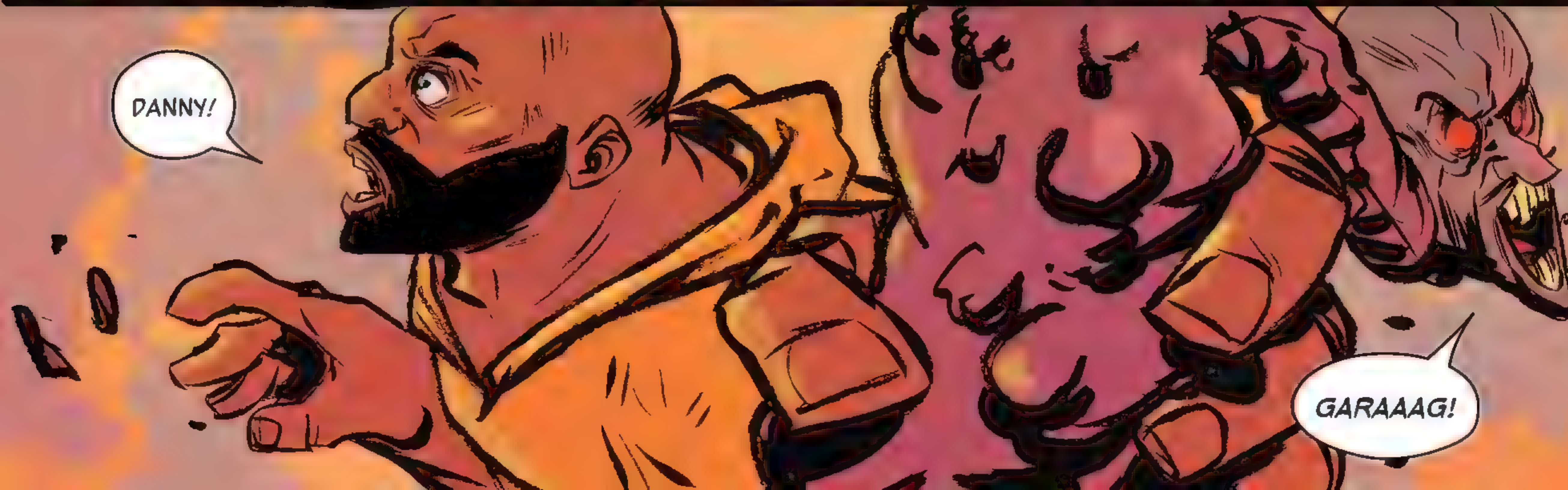
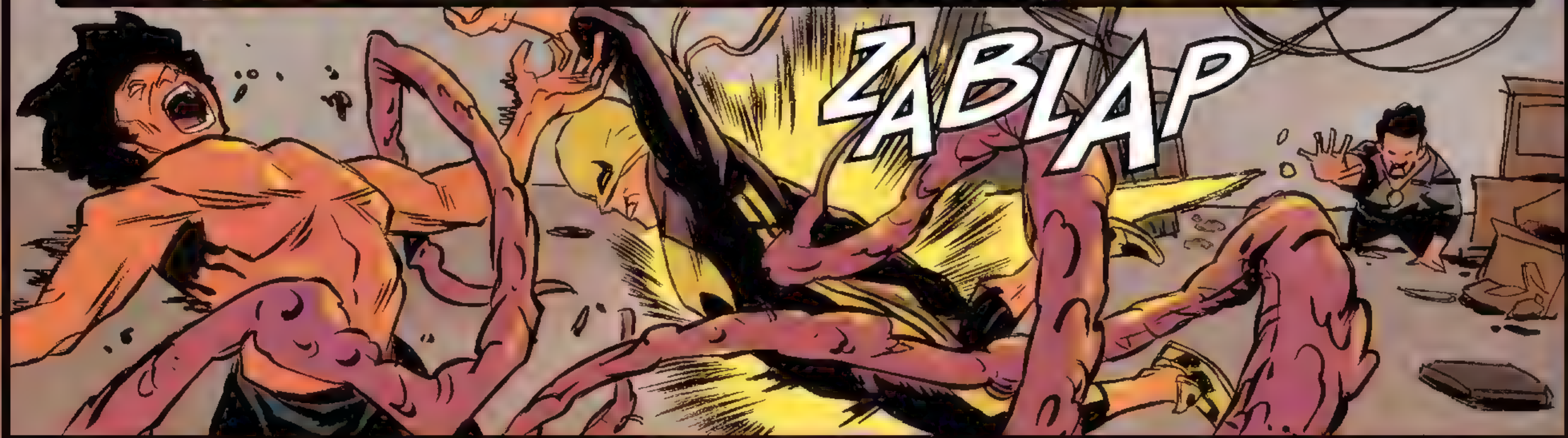
DON'T
MESS WITH
MR. FISH!

I'M FIXIN'
TO DO MORE THAN
MESS WITH YOU,
FISH!

REAL
MEN DON'T HIT
WOMEN!

FWPACK







AIN'T NO
HOPE FOR
YOUR SOUL,
BOY!

DON'T
LISTEN TO HIM!
HOLD ON!

I
CAN'T!

THE
DAEMONIUM IS
HUNGRY!



THEN LET'S
GIVE IT SOMETHING
TO EAT!



YOU'RE NO
MATCH FOR SEÑOR
MÁGICO!



ZERSLASH



NOOOO!



NOT BACK
THERE!



THIS SPELL WILL KEEP THE BOX CLOSED--
CHADOE IS TRAPPED INSIDE, ONCE
AGAIN BANISHED TO THE REALM
OF THE DAMNED.

YOU
SURE? 'CAUSE
I'M SICK AND TIRED
OF ALL THIS
MAGIC.

YOU CAN
SAY THAT
AGAIN.

ÞÞYMR!



PLEASE...
DON'T LEAVE
ME THIS
WAY...

YOU SAVED
HIS LIFE, AMIGO--
AFTER ALL HE DID
TO YOU.

YEAH, I
SAVED HIS
LIFE...



...BECAUSE
THAT'S WHAT
WE DO.

OH, NO...



BOO-BOO...
TALK TO ME, GIRL.
PLEASE--SAY
SOMETHING...

YOU CAN'T
LEAVE ME LIKE
THIS, BOO-BOO--
I NEED YOU.



I'M SORRY...
I THINK WE'RE
GOING BACK TO
PRISON...

S'OKAY,
AS LONG AS YOU
AIN'T DEAD.

BESIDES,
CAN'T NO PRISON
HOLD US FOR LONG.



YOU'RE THE
OPTIMISTIC ONE, DANNY.
THIS COUNTS AS A HAPPY
ENDING, RIGHT?

I...UM...LET
ME GET BACK TO
YOU ON THAT.

DAYS LATER...

THIS
ISN'T HOW
I THOUGHT IT
WOULD END
UP.

BROTHER,
YOU OF ALL
PEOPLE SHOULD
KNOW...

...AIN'T A
DAMN THING IN
LIFE EVER THE WAY
WE THINK IT'S
GONNA BE.

I KNOW.

IT'S JUST...
WELL...

...I
NEEDED
THIS.

I GET IT. I NEEDED IT,
TOO. DIDN'T REALIZE
IT AT THE TIME, BUT
I DO NOW.

AND
WE HAD
IT.

BUT
IT'S ALL
GONE.

FOR
NOW.

I DON'T
KNOW.

WE TRIED
SO HARD TO HELP
PEOPLE--AND LOOK
WHERE IT GOT
US.

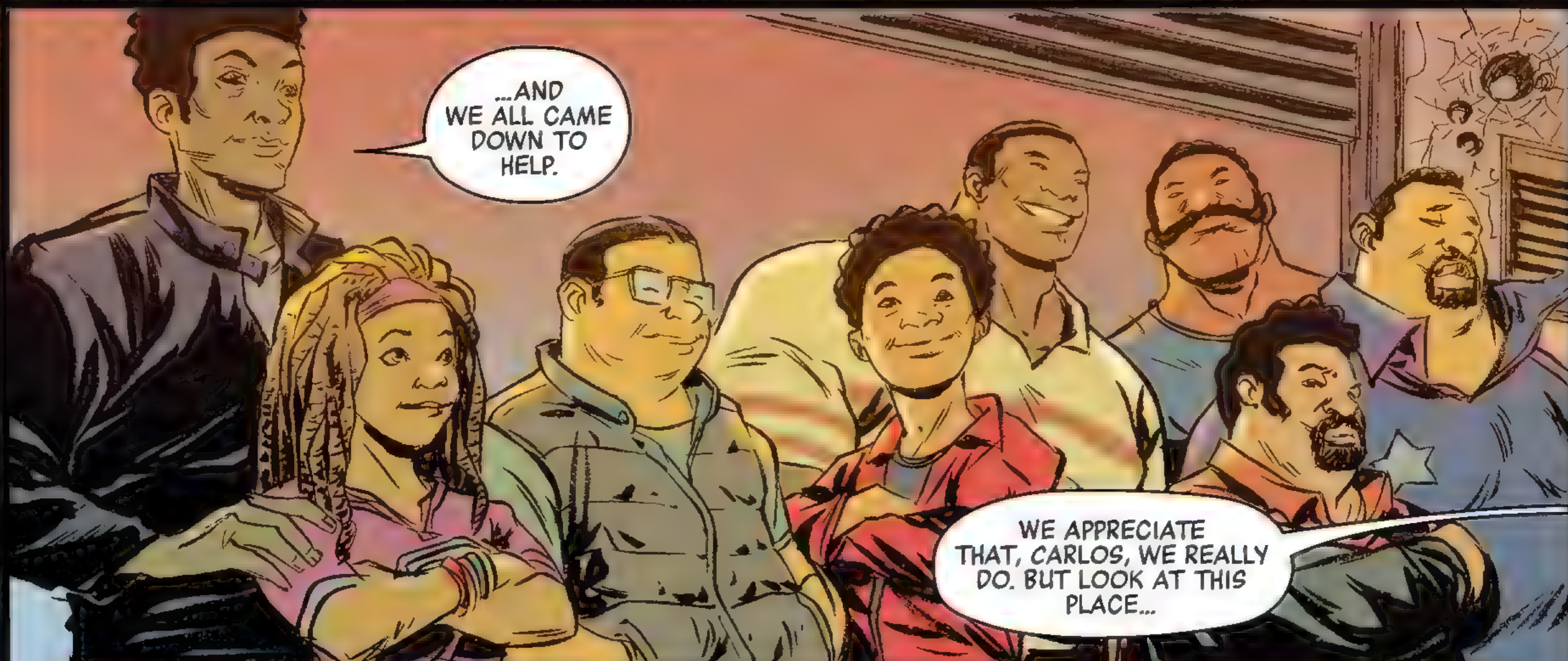
I'VE
GOT TO BE
HONEST...

...I DON'T
KNOW IF I
CAN DO THIS
AGAIN.

MR. CAGE,
MR. RAND--WE
HEARD ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED...

MERRY
JOE
ACI

BILLY
GRAHAM



...AND
WE ALL CAME
DOWN TO
HELP.

WE APPRECIATE
THAT, CARLOS, WE REALLY
DO. BUT LOOK AT THIS
PLACE...



...THERE'S
NOTHING LEFT.
EVERYTHING
HAS BEEN
DESTROYED.

THAT'S
NOT TRUE,
MR. RAND...



...YOU AND
MR. CAGE ARE
STILL HERE.

THAT'S RIGHT--
AND WE'RE HERE
BECAUSE OF YOU.
BECAUSE YOU
HELPED US.

AND SO
WE'RE HERE TO
DO FOR YOU WHAT YOU
DID FOR US. WE'RE GOING
TO REBUILD HEROES
FOR HIRE--ALL
OF US.



ANTA
SURUVATA
HO.

WHAT'S
THAT?

AN OLD
PROVERB FROM
K'UN-LUN--"THE
END IS THE
BEGINNING."

SOUNDS
ABOUT RIGHT
TO ME.



IT'S
GONNA BE OKAY,
BROTHER.

I LOVE
YOU.

LOVE YOU,
TOO.

Fin?

LUKE LETTERS & DANNY DIATRIBES

Hello out there, all you Power Maniacs and Fans unto a Fist of Iron!

I can't believe it, but here we are. The end of the road for our beloved POWER MAN AND IRON FIST. Before we get to your letters, I just wanted to take a moment to thank all of you who put us on your pull list, told your friends about us, talked to us at conventions, and just in general shouted your love of PMIF from the rooftops. It was wonderful hearing from all of you--the fans of this book are truly something special.

Speaking of you lovely fans, enough gushing from me! Let's get to David F. Walker answering your letters!

Hello to the people behind PMIF,

I wanted to thank you for your awesome work. It's always nice to have a good story in your hands.

I have a couple of questions I'd like to have answered, if you will. Thanks.

First is about Jessica Jones: Maybe it is because I haven't read all the comics that are following that storyline these days or because I didn't pay attention to it (in that case, sorry), but I was shocked learning that Jessica has left Luke... Why? Was it for Danielle's protection?

The second is about Luke (and also Iron Fist): Are you using some characteristics of Luke Cage's Netflix series? What do you think about the series itself? Are you using Danny's characteristics as well? (Maybe you have early access to the *Iron Fist* series, which I'd love to see right now!!!)

Thank you also for using many characters familiar to people who are a bit new to the Marvel media.

Regards,
Andrés Martínez
Colombia

Jessica left Luke in her amazing solo comic, JESSICA JONES. You'll have to check it out for the details. I started developing this series almost a year before *Luke Cage* premiered on Netflix, so the show had no real influence on me. I've loved Luke Cage and Iron Fist for more than 40 years, so I just took inspiration from all the great comics they've starred in over the years.

I like Sanford Greene's indie art but Elmo Bondoc did a quality fill-in issue on #13 with some Chaykin-type panels here and there. I like Mariah's flowery dress with vibrant colors by John Rauch.

David Walker's writing is consistent and engaging. It was touchingly poignant that Lenny could turn to this comic for some comfort during bereavement; that's what art, including comics, can offer on a basic human level.

I'm looking forward to "Street Magic" and expect a funny David Blaine parody somewhere in the mix.

Sweet Christmas! Busted by David Walker in my shameful attempt for a No-Prize...but 14 issues and one annual into the current run

and you guys haven't made any continuity or aesthetic errors yet. Give us a break!

Cheers,
Bruce Marsh
Newbury Park,
England

I got to work with Elmo on a Deadpool story last year, and really wanted the opportunity to work with him again. Between Sanford and the guest artists we've had, this series has been a visual treat. Every day I'm thankful for the amazing collaborators that have brought these stories to life.

To the PMIF crew,

I wanted to graciously thank you guys for doing justice to the character of Alex Wilder. He's really giving the duo (now trio, with Señor Mágico) a run for their money. I enjoy seeing Alex really taking a moment to reflect on what has happened to him so far and how he believes he's living up to the Wilder name. It would be fantastic to finally see the events between him being brought back to life in AVENGERS UNDERCOVER and this storyline, but I know you guys have something cooking based on Doctor Voodoo's dialogue. You guys are doing a fantastic job!

Edgar Cid
Long Island, NY

P.S. Señor Mágico is a phenomenal addition to these stories.

Alex is a character that I really wanted to work with for a long time. He really seemed to fit into the world we were building in PMIF. And as for Señor Mágico, he started out as a one-time thing, but some characters just grow on you. After this is all over (which it is for now), I hope to bring him back.

And with that, our final letters page comes to a close. Well, not quite. I asked David and Sanford if they wanted to give a bit of a testimonial about the book, as it was a project that was extremely personal for everyone involved. So let's give the last words here to David and Sanford.

Not everyone gets to say that their childhood dream came true. But the fact of the matter is that ever since the first issue of POWER MAN AND IRON FIST came out in 1978, just before I turned 10, I've been dreaming of writing the adventures of this dynamic duo. Likewise, I'd wanted to work with Sanford Greene for close to a decade. For these reasons, and more than I can really count, writing POWER MAN AND IRON FIST has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. Two of my favorite characters, and one of my favorite artists... what more could anyone ask for?

Speaking for both Sanford and myself, we want to thank everyone at Marvel who gave us the opportunity to be part of something truly special. Power Man and Iron Fist have

a special place in both of our hearts, and it has been an honor to work on this series. As the writer, I also want to thank the other artists who worked to bring my words to life, Flaviano, Scott Hepburn, and Elmo Bondoc, not to mention our colorists Lee Loughridge, John Rauch, and Nolan Woodard, and our letterer Clayton Cowles.

Sanford and I have had an incredible time working on this series, and we really want to thank the fans, critics, and retailers who supported the book. The outpouring of love and support that all of you have given is not something that we take lightly. Aside from the fun of working together, the thing both of us will miss the most are the kind words so many of you have shared with us. Finally, I want to thank Luke and Danny, as well as Black Mariah, Tombstone, Señor Mágico, and the rest of the cast, because strong and interesting characters bring out the best in a writer. And that ain't no fiddle-faddle.

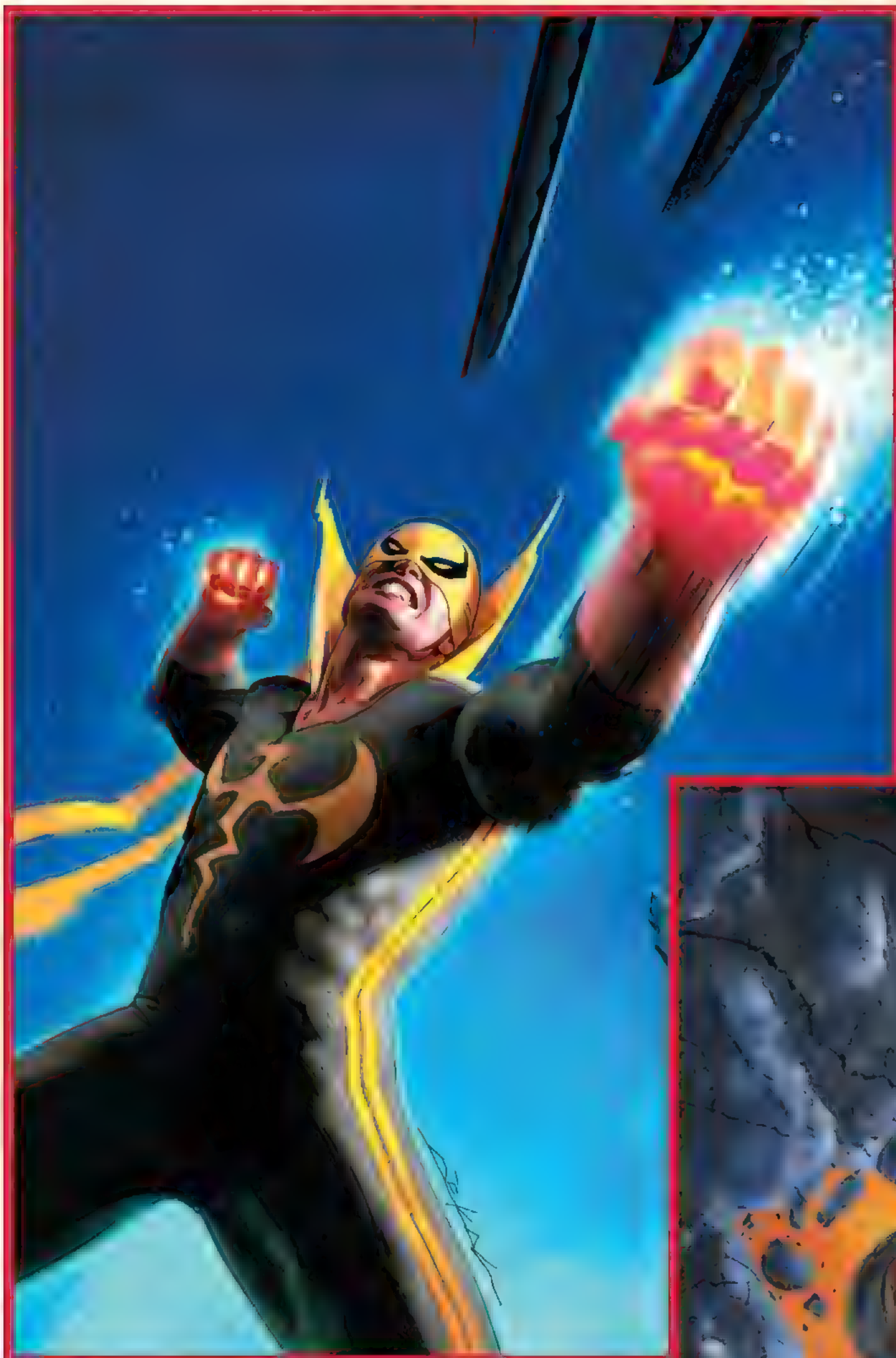
-David F. Walker

Wow! What an incredible ride! When I got the call from Axel back in 2015 it was surreal. As David mentioned, I also discovered these characters on the rusted spinner racks in my local gas station as a kid and became enamored with them. That sparked my then-budding interests in cartoons and comic art and propelled me to dream about how cool it would be to one day draw these characters. To be able to say I've done my dream job is beyond what any words can express. I think what also made this special is being the creators that introduced Luke and Danny to this generation! It is incredible to meet sooo many young people at conventions and book store signings expressing their excitement and pure enjoyment for this book. Also, we've had the privilege to do interviews for seemingly everyone that wanted to hear from us and we've met celebrities along the way that became fans of what we did with this book. I think maybe the highlight of this run for me was meeting two best friends, Adam (who's white) and Octavius (who's black). Octavius had a kidney disease and needed a transplant. His best friend Adam stepped up to volunteer. One of the motivations for their friendship was seeing the brotherhood bond of Luke and Danny in our stories. How they dealt with racial diversity by standing up for one another even when it's unpopular or uncomfortable. That influenced them to make that life-changing decision together. That was such a powerful thing, it honestly made me shed tears knowing our stories were somehow a contributor to that. So lastly, I as well as David want to thank EVERYONE that ever wanted us to sign your books, do sketches for you, take pictures with you, or just wanted to shake our hand and tell us how much you appreciated our work. Like David said, it has truly been an honor to bring to you Marvel's Dynamic Duo!

-Sanford Greene

IRON FIST #1

by Ed Brisson and Mike Perkins



LUKE CAGE #1

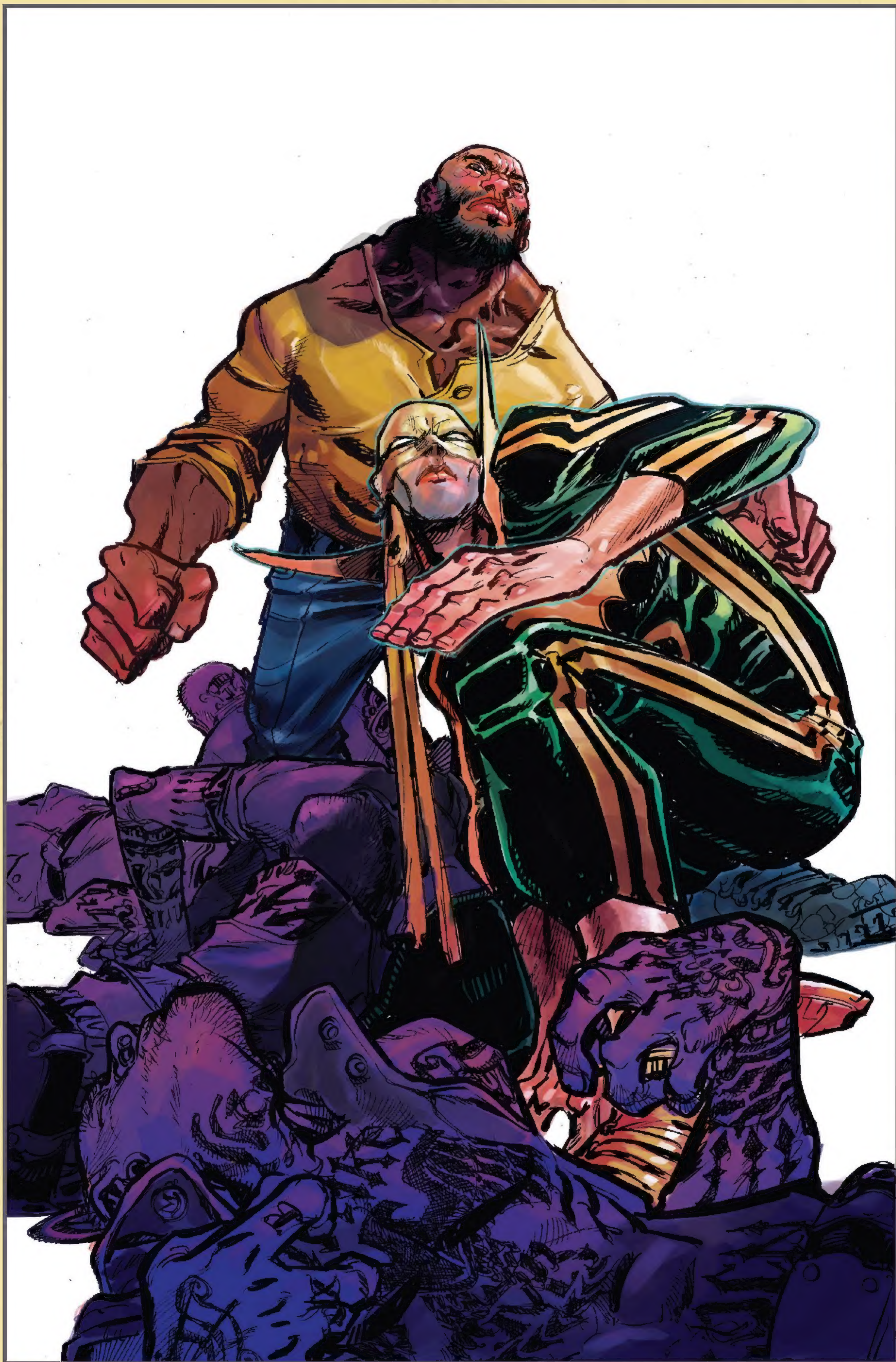
by David F. Walker
and Nelson Blake II

**ON SALE
NOW!**





NATACHA BUSTOS
14 STORY THUS FAR VARIANT



ERIC CANETE
10 VARIANT



MIKE DEODATO JR. & RAIN BEREDO
10 DIVIDED WE STAND VARIANT

The Marvel logo is displayed in its classic red and white font, positioned in the upper left corner of the page. The background of the entire page is a stylized comic book illustration featuring several characters from the Marvel universe. In the center, a man with a mohawk and a woman with a high-top hairstyle are smiling. To their right is a green-skinned, reptilian character with a spiked collar. In the foreground, a man with glasses and a woman with a 'BM' necklace are visible. The overall color palette is dominated by warm tones like yellow, orange, and red, with some cooler blues and greens in the background.

THE BATTLE FOR HARLEM BEGINS!

AS LUKE CAGE AND DANNY RAND struggle to pick up the pieces in the wake of CIVIL WAR II, the ultimate turf war erupts right under their noses! Tombstone, Mister Fish, Piranha, Cottonmouth, Black Cat and a mysterious new player are all vying for a piece of the pie – and New York is caught in the crossfire! Power Man and Iron Fist fight to take back the streets, but Luke has other problems, too – big ones. Jessica Jones has left him, and taken their daughter with her. Cage isn't taking it well – and while Danny wants to be there for his friend, he's got issues of his own. Meanwhile, double, double, toil and trouble are brewing... Luke and Danny are handy in a fight, but how do you punch magic?

COLLECTING *POWER MAN AND IRON FIST* (2016) #10-15 – BY DAVID F. WALKER, SANFORD GREENE, ELMO BONDOC, LEE LOUGHRIDGE AND JOHN RAUCH.

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